

Military cutbacks in East bloc

LONDON (R) — A drive for military cutbacks spread through Europe's Communist bloc Monday, as East Germany and Poland announced reductions in troops and defence spending and Poland said some Soviet units would withdraw from its territory. East Berlin and Warsaw appeared to be taking their cue from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has announced both armed forces reductions and defence budget cuts in the past two months. The moves also seemed linked to the opening of new talks in six weeks between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, which will aim to wipe out imbalances between the two blocs' military forces and bring down their numbers throughout Europe. In Geneva, meanwhile, a top Soviet disarmament negotiator gave new details of Moscow's recent pledge to remove some short-range nuclear weapons from Eastern Europe, but said only a few would be involved (see story below). East German leader Erich Honecker said his country would unilaterally cut its armed forces — totalling 176,000 men, according to Western estimates — by 10,000 men and reduce military spending by 10 per cent by the end of next year. In Warsaw, a senior general said Poland was reducing arms purchases.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير انتفاعية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Arafat: Summit urgently needed

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday that an Arab summit meeting should be convened as a matter of urgency. Arafat, interviewed on Baghdad Television, said developments on the Palestinian question and the situation in Lebanon required "a unified Arab stand and an Arab plan decided by a summit meeting which must be held as quickly as possible." The next meeting of heads of state of the Arab League is due to be held in Saudi Arabia but no date has yet been fixed. Arafat said he proposed when he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Iraq last October that a summit should be held in Baghdad. But Iraqi President Saddam Hussein replied that he would host a summit only if it was considered as an extraordinary meeting since the ordinary summit should be held in Saudi Arabia. Arafat left Baghdad Sunday night for Oman, where he held talks Monday with Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id.

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Visits ministries of agriculture, energy and mineral resources, tourism

King directs ministry to compensate farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday issued directives to the Ministry of Agriculture to compensate farmers whose crops were severely affected by the recent wave of frost.

The directives were issued during a visit the King paid to the Ministry of Agriculture, accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

King Hussein said due attention should be given to training of ministry staff with a view to raising their standards and improving their performance. Ministry employees should attend refresher and in-depth courses in different specialisations to acquaint themselves with up-to-date technology and applications. The King said. He added that proper attention should be given by the ministry to the problem of disintegration and misuse of land, and emphasised the need for the ministry to improve the strains of wheat produced in Jordan in the dry lands and to help farmers make better use of agricultural land.

The King said comprehensive land surveys and land reclamation should be carried out.

The King said the ministry should help maintain Jordan's credibility in Arab and foreign markets and should help rid the Jordan Valley and Aqaba regions

of insects and harmful pests. "We want Jordan to assume an advanced status in the field of agriculture and benefit from Arab, regional and international expertise and experiments in this regard," King Hussein said.

At the outset of the meeting, King Hussein heard a briefing from Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber on the ministry's projects and programmes to promote the agricultural sector, which provides work for 12 per cent of Jordan's total workforce.

He said the ministry was carrying out 24 agricultural projects, most of which in cooperation with Arab and international funds and friendly nations. The minister cited the Zarqa and the Hammam basin projects as examples of such enterprise.

The minister also briefed King Hussein on the ministry's project to increase cereal production and to green the Kingdom.

Jaber also spoke about the ministry's programmes to combat desert locusts through specialised teams.

At the end of the visit, King Hussein signed the ministry's reg-

ister expressing in brief remarks his total confidence in the ministry and its staff and voicing satisfaction with its programmes.

The King expressed absolute government support for the ministry's endeavours to promote agricultural production.

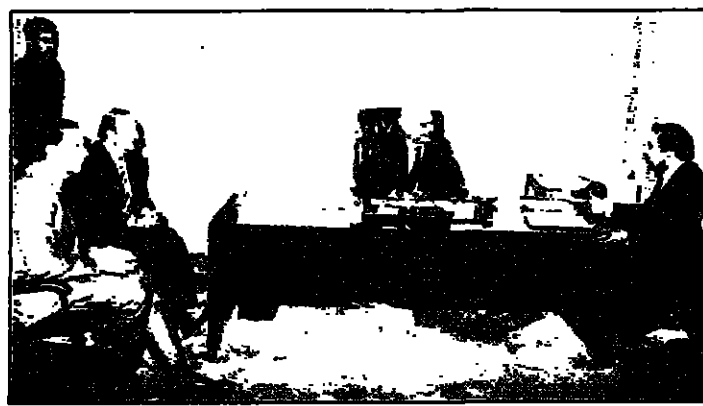
The King also visited the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Natural Resources Authority and was briefed by Minister Hisham Al Khatib on the ministry's efforts to benefit from alternative sources of energy.

Khatib said the first solar energy station in the region was established in Jordan and that the Kingdom was considered advanced in the field of energy studies and utilisation.

The minister said that workers in government agencies were being trained to use computers through advanced courses, pointing out that several friendly countries have benefited from the Jordanian experience in the area of consultancies on energy.

Khatib added that in the area of geology and minerals, a comprehensive study had been conducted to discover natural mineral resources in the Kingdom in addition to encouraging the establishment of local industries such as the glass and ceramic industries. He said the national effort for the exploration of oil has achieved progress in coopera-

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan and Petra)

Quake hits Soviet Central Asia; at least 1,400 dead

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An earthquake struck the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan Monday, engulfing an entire village in mud, and Radio Moscow gave a provisional death toll of 1,415.

The tremor, the second serious quake in the Soviet Union in two months, killed at least 600 people in the village of Sharora when it sent a wall of mud pouring down in a mountainous part of the republic near the Afghan border, a Tajik News Agency editor said.

The nearby village of Okulibolo was completely engulfed in mud after the quake, which measured seven points on the 12-point Soviet scale at its epicentre 50 kilometres southwest of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.

"According to preliminary reports, 1,415 people died," Radio Moscow said on its English-language service. Tajik officials in Moscow gave a similar figure, but

the official news agency TASS said up to 1,000 people were estimated to have died.

A spokesman for the Tajik Foreign Ministry said the republic's deputy prime minister, Georgy Koshlakov, had told a news conference in Dushanbe that the village of Okulibolo had been completely buried by mud.

"The earthquake caused a burst of mud from the foothills, which poured down, engulfing the whole of Okulibolo and large parts of Sharora," Koshlakov said. "It was up to eight kilometres wide from east to west and 2.5 kilometres long."

He said the quake preceding the mudslide had lasted some 40 seconds and caused considerable damage to a number of villages in the region.

Soldiers were rushed to the villages to keep order and to restore communications and power and water to the buildings left

standing, he said. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called Tajikistan officials to promise help from the national government, he said.

Rescue teams brought from Dushanbe were searching for survivors, and excavators, bulldozers and cranes were being rushed to the area, TASS said.

"Local authorities are taking steps to ensure medical help, food and temporary housing for the victims," the news agency said.

A quake of 7 on the Soviet scale is classified as a "very strong" shock capable of cracking stone walls.

The U.S. Geological Survey registered it at 6 on the open-ended Richter scale. A quake of such magnitude can cause severe damage in populated areas. The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on a seismograph.

Palestinians hit Israeli interests, reject Rabin plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leaders of the Palestinian uprising Monday continued a drive to force Israeli banks and products out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, wounding four in a petrol bomb attack on a branch of Bank Leumi in Nablus, sources said.

The United National Leadership of the Uprising also rejected Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for Palestinian elections to prepare for "autonomy" in the occupied territories and an eventual tripartite confederation.

"We will continue to reject all Israeli political elections and all autonomy," the leaders said in their 33rd leaflet.

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Several people were burned when a petrol bomb was thrown into a branch of Israeli Bank Leumi in central Nablus in the West Bank after it opened Monday, witnesses said. Hospital officials said at least four were hurt, one seriously.

Leaflet 33 also urged Palestinians to step up a boycott of Israeli products and continue a tax strike.

It threatened retribution against those who collaborate with Israel's secret police. At least four accused collaborators have been killed this month.

In protests Monday, Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in the West Bank village of Jaba, near Jenin, and two in Gaza Strip refugee camps, hospital officials said.

Israeli Attorney-General Yosef Harish said he would review the legality of army rules on opening fire on protesters in the occupied territories.

Rabin said last week officers

and for the first time non-commissioned officers had been given new orders to fire plastic bullets at Palestinians throwing stones, burning tyres and blocking roads, and at fleeing stone-throwers.

But Israel Radio Monday broadcast a report of a briefing in which chief of staff Dan Shomron denied troops had been issued any new, looser gun-use orders and asserted that army figures showed casualty figures were actually down.

Eighteen Palestinians died, most from army gunfire, in 10 days in mid-January and 52 were shot and wounded in the two days after Rabin's statement.

The crackdown sparked protests both from Israeli civil rights campaigners and from the U.S. State Department.

A group of Palestinians met visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas Sunday and scoffed at Rabin's plan.

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Israeli activists urge peace talks with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli peace activists and leftists held a symbolic meeting with Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem Monday and called on their government to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Israeli group comprised two left-wing parliamentarians and about 10 activists from Peace Now, a Jewish group advocating an independent Palestinian state.

They joined a similar number of residents of the village of Jabal Mukaber.

Jabal Mukaber has been a frequent site of protests in the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"Today we came to prove that a meeting between Israelis and Palestinians can be a meeting of peace," said Ran Cohen, a parliamentarian from the Citizens Rights Movement.

The mukhtar of Jabal Mukaber, Hussein Abu Daoud, told his visitors:

"The continuing occupation has only increased hatred between our two peoples. Therefore we ask to find a peaceful, comprehensive, just and final solution to the conflict in our area."

Daoud protested at Israeli efforts to quell the uprising, describing the killings, beatings, home demolitions and expulsions as immoral acts.

Calling for an international peace conference including the PLO and Israel, he advised the Zionist state to seize the moment.

Haim Oron, a legislator from the socialist Mapam Party, said: "The thinking that using more power and more power will solve the problem is mistaken. More force will bring use of more force without end."

Cohen called for talks between Israel and the PLO on the basis of mutual recognition, sovereignty and readiness to live side by side.

PLO: No American offer or conditions

TUNIS (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member denied Monday the United States had offered the organisation a role in Middle East peace efforts if it expelled certain members and disbanded one of its units.

Abdullah Hourani, an independent member of the committee, told Reuters: "We haven't received such an offer and if we did, we would reject such preconditions."

Hourani took part in the first round of official PLO-U.S. talks in Tunis last month and has been briefed on two subsequent meetings between U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and Haim Oron, who is based in Tunis, had relayed the U.S. conditions to the PLO.

He said the ambassador presented a list of PLO leaders whom Washington considers "terrorists," including PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad (Abu) Abbas of the Palestine Liberation Front, and asked the PLO to disband Force 17.

Diplomats familiar with the PLO-U.S. dialogue said the Abu Dhabi story sounded unlikely as the talks had not yet reached the stage of discussing specifics.

Jamil Hilal, who heads the PLO Information Department in Tunis, also denied the PLO had received such proposals from the United States.

"They haven't said all this and if they did, we would tell them it was interference in our internal affairs," he told Reuters.

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LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Bush says U.S. to seek peace

CAIRO (R) — President George Bush told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday the United States was keen to play a positive role in Arab-Israeli peace, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. MENA said Bush, who began his first working day as president Monday, called Mubarak by telephone to thank him for a message of congratulations sent when he took office Friday. Bush also said Washington wanted to increase cooperation with Cairo.

Syria: Arabs ready to work with Bush

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Monday that Arabs would cooperate with new U.S. President Bush if he worked for a just peace in the Middle East. "If the Bush administration can match words with deeds it will find the Arabs, all Arabs, are actually more interested and ready to further cross steps towards the long-sought peace in the Middle East," said the daily Syria Times. "This peace should not be based on adopting Israel's stances in total at the expense of the Arabs as has been always the case with previous American administrations," the paper said in a commentary.

Norwegians were PLO-Israeli 'mailmen'

OSLO (AP) — Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg was quoted Monday as saying the Norwegian Labour Party passed messages between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli groups for five years. "While Labour was in opposition we acted as mailmen between PLO and certain Israeli groups. Since Labour took over the government in May 1986 we also arranged contacts between PLO and American authorities," Stoltenberg told the Klassekampen daily. He did not identify the Israelis to whom the messages were delivered or discuss their content.

Kuwait fights new locust invasion

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait sent aircraft Monday to spray insecticide on locust swarms threatening farms near its southern Wafra region, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. It quoted an agriculture official as saying a swarm of locusts invaded Sunday. A first swarm settled in northern Kuwait in October, part of the biggest locust wave to hit the Gulf in more than 20 years.

Soviet official reiterates Afghan pledge

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov said Monday Soviet troops would be out of Afghanistan by Feb. 15 as promised unless the situation there changed dramatically. Asked if Moscow would stick to its commitments, made last April in a U.N.-mediated settlement, he said: "As far as I know. If there is nothing that can dramatically change the situation there, our troops will go."

Spanish minister cancels Morocco trip

MADRID (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez postponed a visit to Morocco after King Hassan compared his war against Polisario guerrillas to the Spanish government's battle with the Basque separatist group ETA. A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Monday the postponement was forced by Fernandez Ordonez's European Economic Community (EEC) timetable and decided to say if it related to King Hassan's comments in the newspaper El Pais Sunday.

'Who's a Jew' law challenged

TEL AVIV (AP) — A group of immigrants appealed to Israel's supreme court Monday over the government's refusal to register them as Jews because they were converted by non-orthodox rabbis. The appeal has again raised the controversial "who is Jew" question, which was a hot election issue last fall and deeply angered American and Canadian Jewry. The court case was brought after the Interior Ministry refused to register the 10 immigrants and, instead, referred their cases to rabbinical courts, said Yehoshua Schoffman, an attorney for three of the immigrants.

Argentine troops retake barracks

LA TABLADA, Argentina (R) — Argentine troops Monday regained control of an army barracks after four hours of intense fighting with members of an insurgent "New Argentine Army" in which at least nine people died.

An officer on guard at the entrance to the La Tablada barracks on the outskirts of Buenos Aires told reporters most of the insurgents, earlier estimated by police at around 50, had "been eliminated."

The officer did not say how many had died in the fighting but the Diarios Y Noticias news agency estimated between 20 and 30 people had been killed.

Earlier in the day, an official statement said four soldiers had been killed while the official Telam news agency reported two policemen and three insurgents had also died.

The insurgent group, calling itself the "New Argentine Army," smashed through the main gates of the barracks in a stolen Coca Cola lorry soon after dawn and lobbed grenades at buildings where soldiers slept, local news agencies reported.

Government forces quickly surrounded the base, which quarters the Third Mechanised Infantry Regiment.

Pamphlets scattered by the group said they belonged to a group calling itself the "New Argentine Army" which supported the leaders of three failed army rebellions over the past two years, the agencies said.

The pamphlets said the group had been formed to "combat Marxist subversion within the government" and was against "the Radical (governing party) campaign to destroy the army."

Monday's disturbance marked the second outbreak of violence at an Argentine army base in seven weeks.

In early December a group of 500 soldiers, mostly Falklands war veterans, staged a four day rebellion, demanding changes in the army

Iran, Syria in new bid to end militia feud

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Iran and Syria began talks Monday aimed at ending three weeks of heavy fighting between the rival Amal and Hizbollah militias in Lebanon.

Officials said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati attended a meeting at the Damascus Foreign Ministry with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa and Nabih Berri, leader of one of the feuding militias, Amal.

Diplomats said that depending on progress at the talks leaders of Amal could meet later with representatives of Hizbollah (Party of God).

Fighting between the militias in Beirut and South Lebanon has killed at least 142 people and wounded scores more since Jan. 1.

In his talks with Velayati and Sharaa, Berri demanded that Hizbollah hand over the assassins of three of his commanders, officials reported.

Velayati and leaders of Hizbollah made no comment on Berri's demand.

There was no immediate indication that the fundamentalist Hizbollah, which is battling Amal for control of Lebanon's Shi'ites, will comply.

Earlier ceasefires all collapsed amid the deep-rooted hostility between the two factions.

Velayati is the third senior Iranian official to visit Damascus this month in an effort to defuse the Lebanese crisis.

Berri claimed that Hizbollah gunmen killed Daoud Daoud, Amal's chief in South Lebanon, and two of his senior lieutenants in a street ambush in south Beirut Sept. 22.

But Velayati, who flew to Damascus from Tehran Sunday, later reported "very positive" talks with Sharaa held after his meeting with Berri.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting with the Iranian and Syrian ministers, Berri said he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the discussions.

"I do not know if we succeeded," he said.

Berri said the talks were serious, frank and marked by the desire to end a dispute "which endangers not only Lebanon but also the Arab and Islamic regions."

Sharaa said the talks were moving positively. "We hope to reach a solution to this problem," he said.

Diplomats noted that Hizbollah's spiritual mentor, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, was not in Damascus.

No fresh fighting has erupted between the militias in Lebanon over the past few days since Iran and Syria stepped up efforts to achieve a truce.

(Continued on page 2)

Soviets explain nuclear pullout offer

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union's offer to pull tactical nuclear missiles out of Eastern Europe unilaterally will cover only a small number of weapons, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov revealed Monday.

But he said he thought the gap between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Warsaw Pact proposals in negotiations on reducing conventional weapons could be bridged.

Karpov, one of Moscow's leading experts on disarmament, told a news conference at a U.N.-sponsored discussion on conventional disarmament that the tactical nuclear missile offer would involve only "a couple of dozen" weapons.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made headlines when he announced Jan. 19

that his country would withdraw some of its battlefield nuclear weapons.

The United States has said that NATO has reduced its nuclear stockpile in Europe by 2,400 warheads since 1979.

Karpov told the gathering of government officials and scholars from 30 countries which follows the close last week of the 27-month conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE), that the gap between NATO and Warsaw Pact proposals on reducing conventional weapons could be bridged.

The CSCE decided to relaunch talks starting March 9 on reducing NATO and Warsaw Pact non-nuclear weaponry under the new name CAFE — conventional armed forces in Europe.

"Despite serious differences, there is a certain similarity in the positions of the two sides," Karpov said in his speech, made behind closed doors but provided to Reuters.

"Can we build a bridge between these two proposals? I think we can," he said.

The two sides agreed that the alliance with more forces should remove that "asymmetry" until both sides had the same level of soldiers and arms and reduce together from there, he said.

Washington has said that a reduction in certain Soviet numerical advantages in the European theatre would make it easier to contemplate reductions in strategic nuclear arms.

Both NATO and the Warsaw Pact stand for removing the existing asymmetries and imbalances through cuts in armed forces and armaments, above all those that have the

capability of surprise attack, or large-scale offensive operations," Karpov said.

He said earlier disarmament talks in Vienna had been "killed" by discussions on the numbers of forces each side had.

He told the news conference that at the end of January Moscow would announce its hitherto-unpublished troop levels but also suggested that negotiations on reductions should proceed while trying to sort out who has how much of what.

The three days of meetings in Geneva, which began Monday, are sponsored by the U.N. Institute for Disarmament Research with the aim of pooling disarmament ideas in a freer format than controlled negotiations such as those in Vienna.

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Iraq releases 131 Iranians in peace gesture

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq freed 131 sick, wounded or elderly Iranian prisoners Monday in a peace gesture ahead of efforts by a U.N. mediator to revive talks between the Gulf war foes.

The prisoners were the first to be released by either Iran or Iraq since November. Between them they held more than 100,000 prisoners from the eight-year war.

The Iranians flew to Tehran aboard an airliner chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Officials said they would be followed by a second batch of 124 Tuesday.

"It is a unilateral step by Iraq and we don't know what the next stage is," said the ICRC chief in Baghdad, Andreas Kuhn. He said all 131 had been medically examined and were willing to go home.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein promised to free 253 prisoners as a peace gesture in response to an appeal by a conference of Muslim clerics in Baghdad this month.

Wearing yellow uniforms, some of the Iranians sat silently with heads bowed at Baghdad airport before boarding the plane.

"War is not good, especially between Muslims," said one of them, Anoush Toosi, 35, a former medical student at Iran's Shiraz University.

"The Iraqis are not our enemies... people want peace but the problem lies with political leaders," said Toosi, adding that he

hoped to resume his studies, cut short by the war.

"War happens between two countries, we have no hand in it," said Qassem Islah, 41, a former customs official at Khorramshahr in the northern Gulf.

"I wish peace to prevail and to live happily," he said.

The release came the same day as U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson was to arrive in Tehran to attempt to revive stalled peace talks that began five days after an Aug. 20 ceasefire halted the war.

Three rounds of the U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations made little progress and adjourned in November amid disagreement over a prisoner exchange, troop withdrawals and sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Eliasson, personal representative of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, will discuss the stalemate with Iranian leaders during his five-day visit before taking his mission to Baghdad.

An exchange of sick and wounded prisoners in November broke down after three days when Iran cut the number of prisoners it had promised to free and Iraq retaliated with similar action.



The Afghan capital, Kabul, is under siege by rebel forces and reports say that there is a chronic shortage of food and fuel.

Pravda paints gloomy picture of Kabul

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Whether the Soviets plan to meet the Feb. 15 deadline for withdrawal of their remaining 50,000 soldiers in Afghanistan, Pravda said Sunday in a gloomy portrait of life in the Afghan capital Kabul.

"If we were to lay bare the situation, in the capital it is the following: the Mujahedeen are trying to throttle with hunger two million Afghans," Pravda said.

The Communist Party newspaper said the Soviet Union was flying food supplies into Kabul, and that soldiers were handing out flour and heating fuel from Soviet military trucks.

But it did not give any clue whether the Soviets plan to meet the Feb. 15 deadline for withdrawal of their remaining 50,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.

It said Afghans standing in line for food in the bitter cold were blaming both the government and the rebels for food shortages.

Pravda accused rebel leaders of entering Kabul to buy up food supplies and spirit them out of the city.

It quoted Afghan Defence Minister Shakh Navaz Tanay as saying that during a sweep of the city in search of weapons, soldiers found "big supplies of food and goods of priority need."

Supply roads into Kabul have been blocked periodically this month by rebel attacks and by heavy snows. The Soviet news agency TASS said six Soviet transport planes arrived in Kabul Saturday bringing tons of badly needed food supplies.

Pravda said supply trucks started getting through the snow and rebel attacks again Jan. 19. Soviet television said Sunday that food shortages in Kabul were partly caused by what it called "conscious sabotage" by some Afghan civil servants who supported the rebels, as well as by bureaucratic inefficiency.

The television, monitored by

the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said guerrillas were "trying to strangle the Kabul regime by hunger. The Pakistani authorities... also bear responsibility for the current tragedy."

A Soviet television correspondent said in a dispatch from the Afghan capital that the situation in Kabul had become more critical in recent weeks.

"For many days now, long queues of frozen, poorly-clad and hungry people form up in the streets from early morning," the correspondent said.

Cyprus talks resume

NICOSIA (R) — Unity talks between the leaders of the divided island of Cyprus resumed Monday with both sides eager to shrug off the mutual accusations of bad faith and breaches of confidentiality that marred earlier rounds.

Greek Cypriot leader George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot chief Rauf Denktaş have held more than 40 hours of inconclusive talks since September on reunifying Cyprus.

Political analysts say both leaders feel under pressure to reach a solution quickly at the discussions being held in the green line buffer zone at the residence of U.N. special representative Oscar Camillion.

Greek Cypriots demand the withdrawal of Turkish settlers and of an estimated 29,000 Turkish soldiers from northern Cyprus. They also want guarantees of what they call the three freedoms — the right to travel, live and own property anywhere on the island.

Turkish Cypriots seek maximum autonomy in a bi-zonal federal republic and say Turkey should have the right to protect their minority community.

Greek Cypriot newspaper have recently suggested that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat might be the right person to mediate on the Cyprus problem.

A PLO spokesman in Nicosia asked to comment, told Reuters that Arafat had good relations with both Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

"Arafat will use these good relations to help mediate in finding a solution to the Cyprus problem," the spokesman said.

He added: "We regard Cyprus as a friendly country and the PLO would like to see a fair solution to the Cyprus problem, so that the island maintains its unity, independence, and non-alignment."

A visiting British parliamentarian Sunday night described Cyprus as an "accident black spot."

"It's unsatisfactory to have an accident black spot in the middle of the Mediterranean," Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Margate, told Reuters.

"There is a need in European terms — both for economic and security reasons — for a settlement," he said.

McFarlane: Bush urged end to Iran arms supply

NEW YORK (AP) — George Bush advised President Ronald Reagan at White House meetings in December 1985 and in the spring of 1986 to end U.S. arms shipments to Iran, according to a published report quoting Reagan's former national security adviser.

The adviser, Robert McFarlane, was quoted in Monday's editions of the New York Times as saying that although then-Vice President Bush rarely expressed an opinion at such meetings, he supported McFarlane in urging that the arms shipments be stopped.

"I was struck that he had intervened," McFarlane told the Times. "That seemed a little bit unusual to me, and I was pleased that he had."

McFarlane advised Reagan to end the shipments because the operation was not fulfilling its original purpose of "making contact with Iranians able to change policy," McFarlane told the Times.

The former adviser said that

later in the meeting, Bush "added and was kind of pensive and looked over toward the president and said, 'I think Bud's probably right,'" according to the Times.

Bud is McFarlane's nickname. Bush has acknowledged that he knew of the arms sales to Iran as part of attempts to gain freedom for American hostages, but said he was unaware of the diversion of profits from the sales to Nicaraguan contras.

His role in the Iran-contra affairs has remained largely a mystery, although he was insisted that he expressed "certain reservations" about the weapons shipment in private conversations with Reagan.

Bush, who led a presidential task force on terrorism, has tried to minimize his involvement in the Iran arms sale. He claimed he was "out of the loop" in making major policy decisions.

McFarlane's statements are not supported by the reports of congressional investigators and others who have studied the Iran-contra affair.

Dumas ends Israel visit

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Israel for France Monday after a 36-hour visit.

Dumas made no comment before departing Ben Gurion airport, but during his trip had urged Israelis and Palestinians to open peace talks.

Dumas met with President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Finance Minister Shimon Peres during his visit.

"Peace can only come about via direct negotiations between the parties directly involved, and that means mutual, reciprocal recognition," Dumas



Roland Dumas said at a press conference following his meetings with Israeli leaders.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

King directs ministry to compensate farmers

(Continued from page 1)

tion with international companies.

NRA Director Kamal Jreissat said 43 oil wells had been dug and that several of those produced natural gas. He said a gas-operated electric power generator had been established, with large dependence on local equipment and capabilities.

During the visit, the King stressed the necessity of coordination and cooperation among specialized parties to carry out surveys for oil exploration and the utilization of international experience in this field.

The King referred to the importance of expanding the scope of utilization of solar and wind energy and of paying attention to water treatment through the employment of the latest methods of developing energy along with the protection of the environment from pollution.

The King also visited the Ministry of Tourism where he heard a presentation by Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat on projects the ministry plans to implement.

Hikmat said the ministry was supervising hotels and restaurants, reassessing and classifying them in accordance with in-

ternational specifications. The minister said that work was underway to improve the level of tourist guides and to encourage internal tourism as a national concern for the new generation as well as encouraging tourism as a source of national revenue.

He said the ministry was working to attract Arab tourists through granting them appropriate border facilities in addition to focusing on health-related tourism in cooperation with concerned departments through publications.

Red Cross not ready to resume full role in Lebanon

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross said Monday it was not resuming full-scale operations in Lebanon until it believed it was safe for staff to return.

An ICRC spokeswoman said a Red Cross team visiting Beirut was assessing security and a decision would be made after its mission. Lebanese officials said Sunday the four workers would reopen the Beirut offices.

"It is a mission of evaluation and a decision on whether the ICRC can resume normal operations in Lebanon will be taken after it is completed," spokeswoman Marjolaine Martin said.

She said the four workers travelled to Beirut at the weekend for contacts with the parties involved in the fighting.

The Geneva-based relief organization withdrew its staff in December on the grounds that workers had been threatened but has never disclosed the nature or source of the threats.

The sudden evaluation followed the release of Peter Winkler, as Swiss ICRC worker kidnapped in southern Lebanon Nov. 17 by gunmen seeking freedom for Hussein Mohammad Hariri, a Lebanese awaiting trial in Switzerland.

Martin said the Red Cross hoped that "encouraging signs" it had received from Beirut on prospects for resuming its work unhindered would be confirmed."

ICRC workers provide food and medicine for victims of the fighting in Lebanon, visit prisoners of war, facilitate prisoner exchanges and help people displaced by the fighting.

The spokeswoman said delegates currently in Lebanon, including mission chief Michael Dufour, would also be in contact with the Lebanese Red Cross which had filed in for the ICRC in the past weeks.

Palestinians reject Rabin plan

(Continued from page 1)

"It's a public relations gimmick by Rabin to improve the image of his repressive actions against the uprising. In a few days he will say he offered elections to the Palestinians and they refused," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said afterwards.

The idea of elections in the occupied territories, where Israeli authorities have banned Arab political activity, was a non-starter, he said. "How can you have political elections when you have no political parties? To elect a parallel leadership? We have the leadership of the PLO (Palestine

Liberation Organisation). To elect puppets? Puppets cannot deliver."

Freij said much of the meeting with Dumas centred on reports that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had threatened Freij's life after the mayor proposed a truce in the uprising. Delegates said they told Dumas the reports were fabricated to undermine the PLO's dialogue with the United States.

The delegates said Dumas raised the possibility that French President Francois Mitterrand would meet Arafat but had not specified a time or place for a meeting.

Sudan forms peace panel

NICOSIA (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has formed a committee to open peace talks with southern rebels, the Sudanese news agency SUNA reported Monday.

SUNA said the three-man team was charged Sunday with contacting parties involved in Sudan's five-year civil war, especially the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The SPLA has already rejected the vague peace plan proposed by Mahdi and approved by the Sudanese parliament last month.

The agency said Mahdi told political party leaders that the committee would clarify points in the peace plan before leaving in a few days for talks in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7311149

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 Educational programme
17:10 Religious programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:20 Programme on children
19:10 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Chaine
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties

19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
20:30 Sophia and Constance
22:00 News in English
22:20 Adhdy

PRAYER TIMES

05:09 Fajr
06:30 (Sunrise) Duha
11:40 Dhuhar
16:41 Maghrib
17:06 Asr
18:26 Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresita Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628433.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered showers, especially in the northern and central regions, and another increase in temperature is expected. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Al Salma pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Amjad Obeidat (-)
Al Sharaa' pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Misbah Hijawi 981217
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Sami Al Khouri 681373
Dr. Khalid Ma'adi 743500
Dr. Muhammad Al'Abbadi 778959
Dr. Ahmed Al Daqen 676453
Fina pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 773111
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport. 08-52000

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630441
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 622090/93
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 656390/91
Public Security Department 656000 / 663111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176

Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 659131
University Hospital 659245
Al-Muasher Hospital 657278
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602400/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)833323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)966732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Jah Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Apple 100/100
Banana 300/300
Beans (Mukhammar) 300/300
Broad beans 700/700
Cabbage 750/700
Carrots 200/200
Cauliflower 200/200
Cucumbers 450/450
Eggplant 600/600
Garlic 100/100
Grapefruit 200/200
Lemon 100/100
Marrow (large) 200/200
Marrow (small) 200/200
Onions (French) 300/300
Onions (Shamouni) 200/200
Onions (local) 200/200
Onion (dry) 200/200
Pepper (hot) 400/400
Pepper (sweet) 400/400
Potato 200/200
Spinach 200/200
Mandarin 100/100
Tomatoes 100/100

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in Sls per kg.

Lawzi, Australian senator discuss Mideast issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Australia said Monday that it considers the proposed international Middle East conference as the best forum for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East since it can provide international guarantees for all parties in the conflict.

Australia's views were expressed by Christopher John Puplick, a member of the Australian Senate, at a meeting with the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

"Australia supports the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination on Palestinian soil and regards the present opportunity for peace as very precious and should not be missed," Sen. Puplick said at the meeting.

He said Australia views Israel's current measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as violating human rights, laws and principles.

The Australian senator paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's relentless efforts to promote the peace process and said that Jordan constitutes one of the most important pillars for the achievement of peace in the region.

Lawzi said that the proposed international conference was needed to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Jordan, he said, seeks peace in exchange for land, and a settlement that respects and recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

"The loss of the present chance for peace would open the door for further tension and conflicts in the region," Lawzi added.

He described Israel's atrocities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a flagrant violation of human rights and international laws and principles.

He called on Australian parliamentarians to exert efforts to help establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated the governor of Irbid to convey condolences to Al Widyani family in the village of Kharaj on the death of the late Mohammad Isa Al Widyani, the father of Major General Badruddin Al Widyani. (Petra)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: A symposium on environmental pollution in Jordan will open at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Cultural Centre in Shmeisani on Jan. 30, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The symposium was organised by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Amman Club for Jordanian Business and Professional Women. (J.T.)

MINISTERS RECEIVE ITALIAN ENVOY: Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Monday received Italian Ambassador in Amman Francesco de Curtea and discussed with him issues of common interest. Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan also received the Italian ambassador and discussed with him bilateral relations in the field of transport and telecommunications. (Petra)

RSS TEAM SURVEYS PROJECT: A Royal Scientific Society engineering team Monday conducted a field study of the government departments complex project in Dair Abi Sa'id. (Petra)

HMOUR RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud Monday received U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roscoe Suddarth and discussed with him means to expand cooperation in the fields of preserving the environment, environmental planning, studying regional planning, in addition to benefiting from U.S. expertise in these fields. (Petra)

TAFILEH GOVERNOR INSPECTS: The Governor of Tafleeh, accompanied by local officials and civil defence officers Monday inspected roads and areas affected by the snow and heavy rains that fell in southern Jordan and blocked many roads and disrupted communications. The governor urged bedouin tribes to move their tents away from the wadis and low-lying areas in Qadiseh, Rashadeh and Grandal, for fear of a rise in the level of stream water as a result of the melting snow. Public works teams and municipal workers were reported hard at work opening roads and repairing damages.

MANAGEMENT COURSE ENDS: Eleven people from North Yemen, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan Monday concluded a two-week course at the Jordan Institute of Management. The course focused on selection and training of manpower, wages and laws related to performance appraisal of employees. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: The governor of Irbid Monday opened a five-day plastic art season at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid. The season contains the works of Jordanian plastic artists. There are 84 pieces on display depicting life, nature, heritage, and national causes. (Petra)

SALT ELECTIONS: Twenty eight people were nominated Monday to stand for the Salt municipal election due to be held next Monday. The deputy Balqa governor has said that there will be ten polling centres and 18,145 electors. (Petra)

ROAD PROJECTS: The Um Njash Municipal Council, in Balqa Governorate, Monday offered a JD 20,000 tender to open a number of roads in the village within three months. (Petra)

Twin test-tube boys born at medical centre

By Abdullah Nsour
Al Ra'i Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A twin test-tube baby boys were born at the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman Saturday, and the mother and babies were reported in good condition.

Dr. Aref Bataineh headed a team of gynaecologists who supervised the delivery, the first to be carried out at the King Hussein Medical Centre, which created a national test-tube programme in April 1988.

Dr. Bataineh said that the mother had been trying to have children for the past 17 years with no result.

Dr. Bataineh did not disclose the name of the mother who is kept under surveillance.

The first ever test-tube babies

in Jordan were delivered in April 1986 by a Jordanian team of gynaecologists led by Dr. Zaid Kilani.

Dr. Kilani now operates the Jordan Centre for Infertility which, he said, now takes care of numerous test-tube cases within a programme that covers Jordan and Arab countries.

Dr. Kilani said that his centre has arranged for the delivery of 18 babies and is supervising a programme for the delivery of 22 others inside Jordan.

His programme includes cases in Algeria, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan.

In April 1988 a team of gynaecologists at Al Bashir Hospital performed a caesarean section on a 27-year old Jordanian woman who gave birth to twin test-tube baby boys.



Amman governor briefs police officers

A group of police officers from the Amman Police Academy Monday called at the governor's headquarters and were briefed on the Amman Governorate's achievements. The governor, Mohammad Ali Al Amin, briefed the visitors on water, power, health, telecommunications and school projects in Amman Governorate. Those, he said, are being carried out in cooperation with a total of 10 joint services councils working within the governorate. Amin also talked about infrastructure projects within the Amman region (Petra photo)

Jordanian-Egyptian holding company begins talks in Cairo

CAIRO (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company has opened meetings in Cairo to discuss lean meat and fodder projects which will be implemented in Egypt with a total of 50 million Egyptian pounds.

Jordan is represented at the meetings by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa and his ministry's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf who arrived in the Egyptian capital earlier Monday.

The two-day meetings will also review a general plan for the holding company in 1989 and accomplishments made in the past year, in addition to several financial and administrative measures and the company's new budget, according to officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

They said Tabbaa will also head Jordan's side to a meeting with Egyptian officials to prepare for the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings which will convene on Jan. 28 in Cairo to review progress in joint projects, covering cultural, educational, tourism, industrial, energy, information and other fields.

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki said in an interview published in Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that the higher committee will discuss bilateral trade which is expected to amount to \$350 million during 1989, up from \$250 million in 1988.

On Jan. 16 the holding company's Director Midhat Abdul

Aziz told a press conference in Amman that the company will begin livestock production to cover demand for lean meat in Jordan and Egypt. He said that initial production will be 14,200 tonnes of meat and 20,800 heads of sheep a year.

The project, to be established near the Egyptian port of Alexandria, would cost about \$12 million and production was due to start towards the end of 1989, according to Abdul Aziz.

He put the projected annual demand in Egypt at 238,000 tonnes of lean meat and at 41,000 tonnes in Jordan by 1995.

The Cairo meetings follow last week's talks held in Amman by teams from both countries to discuss cooperation in industry-related affairs.

Ministry to tighten quality control operations for drugs

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Health Ministry plans to tighten its drug quality control operations and expand its laboratory to cover more medicines consumed by the Jordanian public, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas told the Jordan Times.

Malhas said the ministry's drug quality control laboratory, established in 1980, was well-staffed and "fairly well equipped," but that it could not handle the large volume of medicines imported into the country.

"The lab has not been able to expand to check all drugs imported to Jordan," Malhas said in an interview. The lab checks about 770 imported drugs through random sampling. However, there are 3,000 brands of drugs that the lab cannot handle. He put the ratio of drug quality control on imported medicines at only 10 per cent.

"I have given instructions to cover 20 per cent," the minister said, pointing out that the ministry was setting up a new

drug quality control laboratory in the Nweijees area to cover more medicines.

The ministry, he said, has recently disposed of seven types of expired drugs. The loss, according to the minister, was incurred by the retail pharmacists because it was their responsibility to return the expired medicines to the drug agent as soon as the medicines expired.

Asked whether the ministry had plans to adopt drug control regulations such as those carried out in the United States and Britain, the minister said such measures were not practicable in Jordan.

He said that deterrent measures in the U.S. were very stiff because of the general practices are largely under control due to fear from malpractice lawsuits and harsh penalties imposed on violators.

In Jordan, he said, such measures were not possible because of the general laxity in control legislation and law enforcement. "For example," he said, "nobody, not even doctors in Jordan, carry malpractice insurance."

Commenting on charges by patients that locally-manufactured drugs were lower in quality from imported medicines, the minister said such charges were baseless.

"I don't think anybody has a solid base to prove or disprove that imported medicine was far better in quality than locally manufactured medicine," he asserted.

However, he contended, "certain medicines vary in composition of ingredients, potency and effectiveness, and may not have the same effects when taken by patients."

He said local manufacturers were aware of regulations and were committed to standard specifications, and that "from my own practice, there is no proof to the opposite."

He hinted that drug agents were behind what he described as "rumours," about the deficiency of local medicine.

"Obviously, it is in the interest of importers to say so, but they have not proven it. 'Proof, if there was any, may apply to a very small number of drugs.'"

Geographic centre gets remote sensing equipment from France

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq Monday presented to the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in Amman a collection of equipment used in remote sensing techniques.

The equipment were handed to the centre's Director General, Brig. Oklah Duheimat, who discussed with the ambassador the centre's projects.

France helped set up the centre in Amman which specialises in

preparing maps using aerial photography and other techniques.

The centre is also adopting the remote sensing technique to help draw maps and explore water and natural resources in the country.

A series of meetings were held in Amman over the past two years to discuss prospects of using remote sensing with the help of a Norwegian company which had been initially employed to con-

duct remote sensing in the exploration of underground water resources in the Wadi Araba and the area south of the Dead Sea.

Several working papers were submitted to a symposium held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in October 1987 focusing on environmental science, agriculture and desertification, as well as exploration of water and mineral resources through remote sensing.

Hmoud visits Mafrqa Governorate

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud said in Mafrqa that studies are underway for the distribution of fuel to municipal and village councils.

The minister made the statement at a meeting during a tour of Mafrqa Governorate where he took part in Arbor Day celebrations.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs annually distributes free of charge certain amounts of oil products to the councils as an

in kind assistance to help promote their operations.

The minister told a meeting at Mafrqa Municipality that the government was keen on providing assistance to municipal and village councils and he referred to last year's government allocations of JD 13 million to promote services.

Hmoud was briefed on projects being implemented in the Mafrqa region and decided to set up a committee, which will group representatives of the ministry, the Cities and Villages Development

Bank and the local councils, to work out recommendations for future projects in the Mafrqa region.

The minister took part in tree planting ceremonies along with local residents who planted trees on a 440 dunams of land assigned as a public park.

Hmoud, accompanied by the Mafrqa governor and local officials, later inspected a newly built marketplace that cost JD 150,000, a bus terminal and a huge sheep enclosure set up by the municipality of Mafrqa.

Jordanian, Egyptian aides complete study on project to link grids

AMMAN (J.T.) — Energy officials and specialists from Jordan, Egypt and an international consultancy firm have completed a feasibility study on a project for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan, and a full report on the study will be submitted to the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo on Jan. 28 for approval, according to an official announcement here Monday.

The announcement was made following the end of meetings held by concerned teams at the headquarters of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in Amman.

According to the announcement, the \$170 million project will take four years to implement, but its commencement is pending approval by the two governments in Amman and Cairo following the project's endorsement by the higher committee next week.

The project being implemented in cooperation with the French firm Electricite de France, entails laying a submarine cable connecting Aqaba Thermal Power station and two points in Egypt — one in the Sinai peninsula and the other in Suez.

According to JEA officials, work on the project can begin this year, but it will not be operational before 1993.

The officials quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the project entails laying a

10-kilometre 400-kilovolt cable line from the thermal station along the Aqaba Gulf on the Jordanian side, a submarine cable extending 12 kilometres and 290 kilometres of 500-kilovolt overhead line across the Sinai desert into Egyptian territory.

The linkage with the officials said, will enable the sides deal with emergency power shortages in their countries which will benefit from low-cost power generation.

According to the officials, the study proved that the project will be of immense benefit to both countries economically and technically, it will save a great deal of fuel and reduce the cost of investments in power stations in Jordan and Egypt.

Above all, they said, "the project will no doubt pave the way for other countries in the Arab region to join the new network."

Under the feasibility study agreement with the French firm, Jordan and Egypt left an option

clause for possible inclusion of Saudi Arabia should Riyadh decide to join in.

High level contacts were earlier held between Riyadh on the one hand, and Amman and Cairo on the other to explore the prospect of Saudi Arabian inclusion in the network as a third partner.

JEA's chief engineer Ribhi Al Hamed was quoted as saying the door was open for Syria and Turkey to link their grids with the projected network in a manner similar to a network linking European nations.

On Jan. 17 Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries agreed to set up, for the first time, a power grid interconnection in the region.

Ministers of Energy from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey decided at a meeting in Ankara to start preliminary studies for the project.

According to Turkish sources, the Islamic Development Bank would finance the cost of the preliminary studies with a grant. They said that a technical team will hold a meeting in Amman in March with the bank authorities to choose a counseling firm for the project.

Petra said that the five countries were also contemplating the idea of linking their grids at a later stage with that of Europe through Turkey.

CSC finds employment for 6,947 Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) last year helped find jobs for a total of 6,947 Jordanians in various government departments, but the total number of applications for employment it had received was 45,988, CSC President Ibrahim Izzeddin said at a press conference in Amman.

Izzeddin said that job seekers continue to submit applications for employment in government departments for 1989 and the CSC will start finding them jobs as soon as the government gives the green light to start spending from the new budget.

According to Izzeddin, the

door was still open for employment with the Ministries of Education and Health which are given priority over other departments.

The two ministries between them absorbed more than 6,000 employees in the past year and the rest were taken by other departments and state organisations, Izzeddin said.

He attributed this trend to the fact that both ministries are still undergoing expansion, building new facilities and promoting their services.

The past year witnessed the appointment of engineers and doctors and specialists, thus helping



Ibrahim Izzeddin

to reduce unemployment among the new graduates, he added.



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Telephone 660471 / 2/3

Amman Branch
King Hussein Street
P.O. Box 444 Amman
Telephone 636175 / 6/7

Al-Wehdat Branch
Madaba Street
P.O. Box 520301 Amman
Telephone 770130

Jebel Amman Branch
Al Khatib Street
P.O. Box 2432 Amman
Telephone 643102

Zerka Branch
King Hussein Street
P.O. Box 3495
Telephone 992501

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photographic works by Wols (Otto Wolfgang Schulz) at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ The Jordanian plastic art season which includes a general exhibition of works by Jordanian artists at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by the German guitar-duo Thomas Offermann and Jens Wagner at the Ballroom of the Amra Hotel — 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A German film entitled "Moordelden" (In Arabic) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A scientific film on the mechanism and functions of the brain, (part 4), at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جورن تائمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6716, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Prevention better than cure

PESTICIDES are being used worldwide liberally and with modest knowledge about their aftereffects on man's health. Some greedy farmers are even suspected of administering hormones to affect artificial growth of their agricultural and horticultural produce. While one can understand and sympathise with the need to use pesticides to contain damage to such products from pests, insects and rodents, one must not be lax as to their short and long term effect on human health whether imminent or potential. This is particularly so if hormones are being illegally used.

Some pesticides, which are widely used internationally, are known or suspected of containing carcinogenic or mutagenic ingredients. The average consumer has no way, on his own, to appreciate the dangers of pesticide residues that seep into his body. He deserves protection and guidance from danger everytime he and his family cook or prepare their daily foods.

We in Jordan have fortunately the reputation of being anything but lax on such matters that affect the health of Jordanians and residents of our country and have rightfully acquired a well-earned reputation of being duly conscious about the need to educate our people and guests on the dangers of pollution in general. Yet in view of the inherent dangers posed by the need to deploy pesticides, there is room for additional effort by the concerned authorities to make doubly sure that the pesticides that are being used by Jordanian farmers meet the stiff standards set nationally and internationally and that no hormones whatsoever are being used by irresponsible farmers. To be sure, the cost of strict enforcement of the government guidelines on the permissible kind of pesticides that may be used nationally and the extent thereof could be prohibitive. But the alternative to this admittedly costly operation could become even more prohibitive should the concerned authorities lower their guard against the temptation of abusing the use of pesticides.

To say the least, one would expect the appropriate authorities to launch a concerted campaign to educate farmers and consumers on how to protect themselves from pesticides or their residues. One would hate to think that our people and their offsprings would wake up one day in the future to discover that their bodies have been filled with poisons or carcinogenic or mutagenic substances as farfetched as this may seem now. Should this, God forbid, be the case, it will weigh heavily on the conscience of the whole country. Therefore, now is the right time to make a fresh start to ensure that pesticides are properly and safely used in our country.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i commented Monday on the strange offer Yitzhak Rabin made to the Palestinians detained in Israeli jails when he expressed readiness to release them if they accept to take part in elections for Palestinian autonomy rule. The paper described this offer as an open ploy and a way to foil the Arab moves towards a full settlement and a means to impose the provisions of the Camp David accords on the Palestinian people. Needless to say that this manoeuvre is designed to draw a wedge within the united Arab ranks and weaken the will and determination of the Palestinians, the paper asserted. Rabin is clearly trying to revive the Camp David agreement reached between Israel and Egypt with the United States blessings and is trying to involve the Palestinian prisoners in a process directed against their own national interest, the paper added. The Israeli minister is trying to do that in the face of mounting world pressure on Israel to accept the international conference and achieve a permanent peace with the Arab countries and at the same time trying to show the world that the PLO is a terrorist organisation pressuring the Palestinians against accepting any offer for peace, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily commented on the joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee meeting that ended Sunday in Amman describing it as a means to bolster the Arab Nation's stance in the economic, political and social fields. Rakan Al Majali, who is also the paper's chief editor, says that the meeting represents a new spirit of brotherly relations designed to boost cooperation and enhance the nation's solidarity in the face of external challenges. North Yemen has always been involved in national issues and has supported Iraq in its eight year long war with Iran and we feel that North Yemen lies in the heart of the Arab Nation backing the confrontation states vis-a-vis the Israeli enemy's ambitious plans in the Arab World, the writer notes. The successful meeting in Amman, the writer continues, is bound to render strength to the whole Arab Nation in its drive to deal with enemies on the eastern and western fronts.

Al Dustour daily commented on the end of the Jordanian-North Yemeni meetings which culminated with the signing of minutes that pave the way for future cooperation in different fields. The meetings that ended in Amman Sunday constitute one major step in promoting Jordan's relations with North Yemen and provides for practical measures for developing and strengthening inter-Arab cooperation in economic, trade, cultural and scientific fields, the paper said. The excellent results of the meetings chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries, the paper added, also embody the very constructive and positive role being played by the leaderships of both countries towards serving their people. It said that Jordan views the minutes signed in Amman Sunday serving as a cornerstone in the coming stage of fruitful cooperation with North Yemen and as a means for bringing more progress and prosperity for the people of the two countries.

Sawt Al Shaab dwelt on the same topic and said that Jordan's close economic, social and cultural ties with other Arab countries finds a parallel to it in the on-going moves to bring the European countries together in one unit. The paper said that by drawing closer to the other Arab states, Jordan seeks unity with the rest of the Arab Nation and further progress and development for all its countries.

One day in the life of the intifada

By Susan Rockwell

As we drove down to Ramallah's old city on independence day, we came upon two jeeps parked under the telephone lines in the middle of the road, the soldiers standing on the seats of the vehicles and trying, with a pole, to dislodge the two Palestinian flags dangling from the wires by strings tied to rocks. On the roof of the building next to the jeeps — a government building at that — a Palestinian flag was stretched taut by the wind.

Set around a square, the houses in the old city have one or two rooms, stone floors, high domed ceilings, thick walls, several chairs and a bed or two. At Abu Jamal's house we were served tea, and everyone began to discuss at what time they had heard the announcement of the Palestinian state, and on which radio station, and then talk turned to Abu Ammar (Arafat), how happy he looked on televi-

sion, and how he wore his kufiyas. Nasir, Abu Jamal's son, said he wore two, one on his head, and one stuffed into the front of his shirt. Abu Jamal said he knew how Arafat wore it and, draping his own over his head, flipped one end across his temple and the other end across the other temple, and being short, grizzled and overweight, looked very much like Abu Ammar, a thought which must have occurred to him also because he suddenly threw back his shoulders, and, to the sound of our laughter, strode out of the room.

At ten in the morning the bells of all the churches in Ramallah began to ring, and at 10:15 celebrations began in the old city with whistling and chanting. We ran to the doorway of Abu Jamal's house and saw a group of kids fighting over a canvas bag. Inside were Palestinian flags, and banners reading, among other things, "Yes to the independent Palestinian state." Everyone wanted to carry a flag. The celebrants were mostly women and girls — the

men hanging back, against the houses — because women are not usually arrested, and it had been announced two nights earlier over the news that anyone caught with a flag or fireworks, or writing slogans, would be sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$10,000.

About forty people formed a parade, and they gathered around the mosque, singing, and hesitating to go further. Everyone was waiting for the inevitable arrival of the army, and five minutes later a jeep came whizzing down the main road. "They've come they've come, get inside!" everyone cried, and the girls and women ran, leaving banners on the ground. The jeep careened into the middle of the square, and the two soldiers followed running. "Get away from the door, get away from the door!" Abu Jamal shouted at his children. And Anwar, who had already spent time in prison, stayed seated, smoking in the back from where the kerosene fire burned, and where the thick

walls trapped the heat.

Nasir refilled our glasses with strong, cool tea and we pretended to be chatting, and uninterested, in case a soldier burst through the door. Amal, a tiny girl with large eyes and thin, short hair, held a hairbrush in her hand and whispered some of the story that her grandfather had told earlier, how the army came on Thursday night at 11:30 and ordered everyone to go to the bus station — the women and older children too — and they sat outside in the freezing cold until 1:00 a.m. and the captain said "if any of you throw a stone you will be out here every night". They took Jamal aside and said to him "if anyone throws a stone we will come to you and you will tell us who threw it."

Nawal, near the open door, said she'd gone. We gathered around the two-step staircase again, and through the door we could see the gate to the neighbour's courtyard, the stream of soap suds from the washing at Ferial's house, the mosque, the

pine trees that surround the Catholic church up on the hill and the light blue sky of November. The women had gathered again and were chanting and ululating and clapping and several times some of the girls panicked and ran towards their houses and the children said "they've come!" but Nabil, standing on the bar that hooked the door shut and looking out through the wire of the torn corner of the window above the door said each time "not yet." Then Hanan, whose husband is in prison for five years, ran back ushering all the children into her house and Nabil from his perch yelled "they've come, they've come!" and Abu Jamal yelled to his two daughters to get inside, and the boys fell over themselves pushing into the warm back room where Nawal, standing on a chair near the high window, was saying "they're coming here! Walking. A soldier strode under the window and up the narrow lane to the next neighbourhood.

Then a jeep roared into the square from the alley just to the

left of Abu Jamal's door and as we pressed ourselves against the wall to get out of sight the face of the third soldier who was sitting in the back of the jeep shot by the doorway like the face of someone in the other carriage of a ride in an amusement park, streaking past, three feet away. The jeep sped to Hanan's house, and one soldier, wearing a red kufiya stood on her doorstep, and Nabil announced "they're going into Hanan's house," but Hanan slammed her blue metal door shut, and the soldier returned to the jeep, and suddenly everyone inside Hanan's house began to ululate and whistle, and it seemed her house would explode from the noise. Then Nabil said that they had the son of the baker, and that they were going towards the mosque, and there was no doubt that they were going to make him remove the pictures of Arafat and Abu Jihad that had hung there since the night before — Middle East International, London.

The going gets tough for Shamir in Nabulus

By Ian Black

IT TAKES little more than an hour to drive from Jerusalem, north through the bare wintry hills, to Nabulus, capital of the Palestinian uprising and the largest town on the West Bank. From Tel Aviv, on the grandly named Trans-Samaritan highway, it takes even less.

Travelling hopefully — for stones and petrol bombs are a routine hazard these days — the visitor arrives in a different world. Only moments after crossing the old Green Line into occupied East Jerusalem, the only "democracy" in the Middle East disappears almost without trace.

Brute violence is the norm. On New Year's Day an Israeli soldier ran amok and fired at random into a refugee camp when rocks were thrown at his car. Last week, after a martyr's funeral in Tulkarm, an 11-year-old Palestinian boy was shot dead by a plastic bullet and 17 others injured, two critically. The town has been under curfew ever since.

Yitzhak Shamir came to an army camp near Nabulus the other day for what should have been a morale-boosting visit to the troops whose task it is to keep

order in the narrow alleyways of the old casbah and in the middle-class suburbs on the slopes of Mount Ebal.

Instead, one after another, the reserve paratroopers gathered on the muddy hillside spoke bitterly of their moral turmoil and outrage at having to do the dirty work of crushing the uprising. "Only a political solution can save us," insisted one soldier.

"In order to enforce order in the casbah we must be brutally violent against people who are innocent of any crime," said another. "I violate army regulations every day and this weakens me and strengthens them. This dead end situation is a disaster. Everything we do bolsters the intifada."

Shamir, huddled in a blue parka against the biting cold, drummed his fingers impatiently on the table in front of him as he listened to the catalogue of frustration. "We hate these PLO terrorists," he shouted afterwards, "because they force us to kill Arab children." General Amram Mitzna, the West Bank military commander, looked embarrassed behind his beard.

A week before that, on nearby Har Bracha, the premier was heckled and abused as a

"traitor." This time his critics were a group of those same zealous Jewish settlers who once called the shots in "Judea and Samaria" and held successive governments in their thrall. Today they are in a state of rising panic at the way Israel seems to be sliding, in spite of itself, towards the unthinkable reality of withdrawal from its "biblical" patrimony.

Shamir's hardline defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, must have experienced the same giddy sensation of uncontrolled collapse when he was repeatedly interrupted in the Knesset on Wednesday as he tried to defend his policy of dealing with the uprising.

"This is a government with a heart of plastic, a brain of lead and a conscience of rubber," said Mohammad Miari of the Progressive List for Peace. "The whole world knows that the stone of the Palestinian David is defeating the oppression of the Israeli Goliath."

Miari, the settlers and the soldiers all got it about right. Thirteen months after the intifada erupted in Gaza, and a month after the American decision to deal with the PLO, Israel is in a state of turmoil.

The pressure is both external and internal and it mounts almost daily. Despite reassurances to the contrary by James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, and by Mrs. Thatcher, dealing with the PLO has to mean contemplating the creation of an independent Palestinian state. To argue otherwise is to misunderstand the PLO and the yearning for freedom that it represents.

Israel is fighting an unsuccessful rear-guard action against a radically transformed PLO. And thus William Waldgrave's meeting with Yasser Arafat in Tunis provoked far less excitement in Tel Aviv than it did in London. When the whole world accepts Palestinian rights, who cares about Whitehall?

Internally, the cost of crushing the uprising is becoming unacceptable. At least 350 Palestinian missiles, including nearly 40 under the age of 12, have been killed, and a staggering 10,000 wounded, since the conflagration erupted in December 1987.

Israelis are starting to realise that this cannot continue. Fifty-five per cent of them are said to favour talks with the PLO if it adheres to its promise to refrain from terrorism. The national unity government patched agonising-

ly together after last November's elections cannot conceal the rising voices of concern.

Motta Gur, a Labour party minister and former chief of staff, is one of these. He boldly urged the government to tell the truth about how Arafat's PLO had halted all attacks from Lebanon. But liberal Likudniks like Ehud Olmert are worried too. Rabin seems extremely even to some right-wingers. "We will not be defeated," the defence minister said before storming out of the Knesset.

"The Palestinians will suffer." This week's resignation by Uzi Baram, the powerful secretary-general of the Labour Party, is another sign of the future shape of Israeli politics. If this Likud-Labour government survives, it will produce a huge centre party — a form of Israeli Butskellism — forged by the national emergency of finally having to deal frontally with the Palestinian problem and having to make concessions that were simply unimaginable a year ago.

Moshe Arens, the Likud's new foreign minister, has already surprised some doves by the moderate noises he has been making. Palestinian aspirations will have to be taken into account in any peace settlement, he declared this week. Quite how, he did not

elaborate. But give him time. Even Shamir has shifted from his traditional monosyllabic refusal to envisage any change: his grudging readiness to acknowledge a supervisory U.N. role for any peace talks has brought him closer to the international conference idea espoused by the Labour leader. Shimon Peres, who has wisely abandoned foreign affairs for the relative safety of the finance ministry.

The source of all this — the intifada — shows no signs of dying. Half-hearted attempts to enter into a dialogue with what the Israelis like to call "local leaders" have all ended in a firm refusal back to PLO headquarters in Tunis. And Arafat, sensibly enough from his point of view, has rejected suggestions that a ceasefire might be a good idea.

Nothing that Israel has offered gives the Palestinians any reason to climb down from the high ground of history and morality to which the efforts and sacrifices of the last year have elevated them. Until that happens — and it now seems increasingly a question of when rather than if — the intifada, as the Jerusalem Post put it so starkly and accurately yesterday, "will keep feeding on the very attempts to crush it." — The Guardian.

Gorbachev may push Bush to move faster

By Carol Giacomo

Reuters

WASHINGTON — In the runup to his inauguration as U.S. president, George Bush has made clear his intention to take a cautious, go-slow approach to relations with the Soviet Union.

But President Mikhail Gorbachev, who has proven adept at seizing advantages from the West, has already announced several arms initiatives that could unravel the American chief's best-laid plans.

Gorbachev's most recent bold stroke, which was made public on Thursday, a day before Bush formally took office, involved a pledge to withdraw some tactical missiles from Europe.

Since December, he has also promised unilateral cuts of 500,000 troops and 10,000 tanks in Europe and to begin destroying Soviet chemical weapons.

U.S. officials feel the Gorbachev initiatives have something of a public relations falseness to them.

But private American analysts, who give Gorbachev much credit for the landmark U.S.-Soviet 1987 treaty scrapping medium-range missiles, say such Kremlin activity may force Bush to respond to Moscow more quickly than he might have liked.

"If Gorbachev continues doing what he's doing, the administration will be forced to respond," said Charles William Maynes, editor of Foreign Policy Magazine.

"The pressure from the allies, from Congress and the American people will be too great," he told Reuters.

To the extent that the Soviet Union appears less and less of a military threat, European allies might be inclined to curtail their own defence spending and balk at U.S.-supported moves to modernise NATO weaponry, U.S. analysts say.

Western nations are already beginning to ease credits and loans to Moscow and this is another challenge Washington must face sooner rather than later, they say.

Moreover, the U.S. Congress, which must grapple with its own sky-high deficit, could be influenced by Soviet armament pull-backs and European attitudes about NATO military burden-sharing to spend less for defence.

After several years of fast-paced developments in U.S.-Soviet relations, Bush's nominee for secretary of state, James Baker, signalled this week that the keyword is caution as the new administration reassesses the legacy bequeathed by Reagan, including arms control proposals. Bush acknowledged on Thursday there may be an international public relations problem if Gorbachev is perceived as moving forward on disarmament and East-West relations while his administration languishes in lengthy study.

But in an interview with Reuters and other wire service reporters, he said: "My intention is not to drag my feet but to simply do a prudent assessment."

Like Baker, however, he declined to forecast when the review of the U.S. position on

superpower strategic arms negotiations — which many believe is closest to agreement — might be completed.

To some extent, U.S. officials regard the Gorbachev initiatives as somewhat phony and resent the public perception that the Soviet leader is the prime mover toward disarmament.

This was demonstrated on Thursday when the State Department, commenting on the plan to withdraw some tactical nuclear missiles from Europe, pointedly noted that Moscow was "following the lead" of NATO, which since 1979 has cut its nuclear stockpile in Europe unilaterally by 2,400 warheads.

On the other hand, analysts for some time have argued that the West, in general and the United States, in particular, surrendered the advantage to Gorbachev by failing to develop their own innovative, offensive strategy for dealing with a new and creative Soviet leader.

This, too, is a challenge now left to Bush.

Is Henry Kissinger back?

By Christopher Hanson

Reuters

WASHINGTON — With the George Bush presidency launched, some seasoned insiders are saying former secretary of state Henry Kissinger has reassessed his influence in U.S. foreign policy councils.

"The unsinkable Kissinger bobs back," was how political observer Garry Willis put it in a recent New York Times column.

Kissinger, who advised presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford on foreign policy from 1969 to 1977, was a member of the team that oversaw the transition from Ronald Reagan to Bush, who was inaugurated on Friday. Associates of Kissinger have been selected for key posts in the new administration.

Kissinger, maligned by the right as a dangerous moderate who had pushed East-West détente too far under Nixon, emerged some time back as a conservative critic of Reagan-style détente.

His message in newspaper columns and television commentaries was that Reagan had gone a

bit too far a bit too fast. A conservative reassessment of the U.S. position was essential before returning to Geneva talks on cutting superpower long-range missiles by 50 per cent.

"He seems to consider arms control a snare and delusion unless he himself is doing the snaring and deluding," Willis wrote.

Nevertheless, Kissinger's neo-conservative views have been embraced by two other individuals once derided by right-wingers as dangerous moderates — President Bush and his Secretary of State, James Baker.

They have promised a reassessment of the American stance on missile talks and say it is too early to set a date for the next round of negotiations.

Kissinger won a place last autumn on President Bush's transition team, which recommended changes in policy as well as candidates for key appointments.

When appointments were made, Kissinger associates began popping up.

Brent Scowcroft, just named as Bush's national security adviser, was a key Kissinger aide and colleague in the Nixon-Ford years

and vice-president of Kissinger Associates. Kissinger's consultancy firm.

As Baker's deputy secretary of state, the new administration has tapped another old Kissinger aide and Kissinger Associates consultant, Lawrence Eagleburger.

Former Kissinger aide Peter Rodman, who has worked in government with Scowcroft and Eagleburger, has been named to a key post on the White House National Security Council.

These developments have convinced some Washington watchers that Kissinger is back as a force to be reckoned with in policy-making.

Nevertheless, the extent of the Kissinger comeback should not be overstated.

Even if he wished to influence former aides, Kissinger might be powerless to pull strings and make them move his way.

As Foreign Policy Magazine editor and former diplomat Charles Maynes put it: "Scowcroft... is not a puppet. He is very accomplished and is his own man. He has very well-developed views on most international issues."

And given the general trend



Henry Kissinger

towards moderation in U.S. foreign policy, it was hardly surprising that moderate conservatives like Scowcroft and Eagleburger are back in government.

"It's just the natural progression... the way the system works," Maynes said.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Coordinate holidays

By Salah Abdul Samad

SOME years ago a holiday was given at the same time to all schools, community colleges and universities by the end of the first semester of the scholastic or the academic year; and also at the end of the second semester, thus allowing all members of the same family in Jordan to have a period of relaxation together.

A real re-union of daughters, sons, fathers and mothers used to result from such coordination of holidays between schools and institutes of higher learning, contributing towards stronger family ties and providing a tranquil atmosphere for every one at home.

In those days, students at different stages of learning used to take their examinations simultaneously; and the atmosphere at home used to be geared to serve their interest, unlike the situation now when no coordination is possible in view of the fact that while some of the family members take their examinations, the others are enjoying a holiday which is reflected in one way or another on the climate at home. The previous arrangement which unfortunately for most Jordanian families was terminated without any good cause, had yielded very excellent results and made everyone happy.

Since the past experience had proved successful, we wonder why the new system should be allowed to continue; but we can understand demands by a majority of people for reinstating the old and successful system that streamlined holidays for schools, community colleges and universities alike. Now that Jordanians are striving to cut down on expenses and rationalise expenditure, it is most beneficial for all to revert to the old and very useful practice of allowing everyone a holiday simultaneously — providing a chance for a vacation for the whole family at the lowest possible rate of expenditure. A return to the old system would clearly allow the family members to pay visits to the numerous historical, tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom, thus promoting domestic tourism.

We indeed look forward to rapid and practical formula which entails cooperation from all concerned parties to serve the common goal — Al Ra'i.

LETTERS

Time to reconsider

To the editor:

AS the whole world frantically approaches the year 2000, busily counting the blessings of the 20th century and its achievements — computers, space ships, missiles, rockets, wars on hunger, wars of ideology and wars of monopoly — I wonder as a mother and as a member of the human race if it is not high time to reconsider the quality of the future generations which we expect to step into the 21st century?

The youth of today, the precursors of the future nuclear families and the carriers of the coming social structure, are either involved in or panicked by wars (chemical and

nuclear) and drugs, disturbed by abused freedoms, neglected values, discarded religions, fanaticism, meager justice and frail democracies, all arising in the name of civilisation, modernisation and development.

Is it too much to wonder about the social structure we will be handing over to our future generations under these circumstances?

Knowing that God in the beginning created heaven and earth, is it too much to ask for God's mercy? Is it too late to minimise the sufferings of our planet earth and of mankind? Is it too late to heal the wounds of both?

Wafa Bahan-Tell
Amman



A Hindu Sadhu in meditation buried himself in a pile of sands on the bank of a confluence of three rivers. An estimated 30 to 40 million people are expected to bathe at the rivers for the duration of seven-week long fair.

Hinduism: Many paths to salvation

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

ALLAHABAD, India — The naked holy man walked past his disciples offering blessings and sacred ash. He raised his hands and hundreds bowed, almost in trance.

Some lay prostrate in reverence to the man, the head of a sect of "Nagas," or naked recluses of Hinduism.

About 200 metres away, a holy man clad in a saffron robe was delivering sermons.

"Why move naked?" he asked his followers and then answered himself. "This is a ploy. You can reach God dressed."

The scenes at Hinduism's biggest religious gathering, the "Kumbh Mela" in the central Indian city of Allahabad, give rare insight into a religion that is believed to have existed since the third millennium B.C.

Some 730 million people — mostly in India and Nepal and parts of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mauritius, Thailand and Fiji — belong to the faith.

A half-million holy men and their followers have been camping in Allahabad since Jan. 14, when the fair began. And 30 to 40 million pilgrims are expected to take holy dips during the 7-week-long fair at the "sangam," or confluence, of the three rivers most sacred to Hindus — the Ganges, the Yamuna and the Saraswati.

The fair, which takes its name from a mythical fight between gods and demons over a pot of nectar, is held every 12 years when Jupiter enters Taurus and the Sun and the Moon are in Capricorn. The importance of the fair varies depending on complicated calculations by Hindu astronomers.

The planetary alignment this year came after a gap of 140 years. "You can't explain Hinduism," said M.P. Asthana, who has attended four earlier Kumbh fairs. "It is a way of life, where Karmas (deeds) are most important. Even to an average Hindu, the faith is so confusing."

He added: "No one can explain how we got to acquire, and where are, our 330 million gods and goddesses."

Objects of worship range from images and statues of gods and goddesses to living rats. In Hinduism every god has his steed, or vehicle. The rat is the vehicle of Ganesha, on whom the elephant-headed master-of-ceremony god rides.

Hinduism postulates that all

people go through a series of rebirth or reincarnations that eventually lead to Moksha, the spiritual salvation that frees one from the cycle of rebirths.

"With each rebirth you can move closer to or further from eventual Moksha," said Asthana, spokesman for the Uttar Pradesh government.

"The deciding factor is one's Karma. Bad actions result in bad Karma, which leads one to lower incarnation and a step further from salvation."

"But if one's actions have been good he or she will reincarnate on a higher level and be a step closer to eventual freedom from rebirth."

Braving the unusual Indian cold with temperature dropping to 3 degrees Celsius (37 degrees Fahrenheit), tens of thousands of pilgrims have been taking holy dips in the belief that a bath here during the auspicious planetary conjunction will wash away the sins of a lifetime and release them from the cycle of births and rebirths.

"It is like appearing directly before God for confessions," said Jagannath Dwevedi, the chief administrator of the fair, where 560 million rupees (\$37 million) of government money is being spent to make it a success.

"No one knows how bathing will wash off sins, but the belief is so great that no logic stands," Dwevedi, who also takes ceremonial dips at the rivers confluence, said in an interview.

Before the bath, pilgrims offer milk and marigold flowers to the rivers in a purification ritual and later throw water with hands towards the sky, believing that some drops will reach their ancestors in the heaven.

The "Nagas" among the holy men move naked. And they have a logic too.

"Nakedness ends all dichotomy in human life," said one holy man, refusing to give his name. "We were born naked and therefore should remain naked and die naked."

Fifty-two religious groups have put up sprawling tent homes at the fair. Each has its way and means to reach god. Most of them constantly smoke marijuana. They say it helps to meditate and become closer to god. "This makes Hinduism unique," said Asthana. "There is no restriction on how you reach your goal — salvation."

Beef and other non-vegetarian food are out of the fair menu because the devout of the Hindus are vegetarian and eating beef is a religious taboo.

'Hundreds of babies sold in southern Italy'

By Barry Moody
Reuters

NAPLES, Italy — The going price for a new-born baby, picked up hours after birth from the hospital is 40 million lire (\$29,000) or more.

And there are plenty of customers in southern Italy's booming baby market.

Magistrates in Naples, centre of the trade, say hundreds of babies are changing hands each year in an illicit traffic which is completely beyond their control.

Some babies have been exchanged for jobs or apartments and one tiny boy was "auctioned" to the highest bidder.

Oreste Ciampa, president of Naples juvenile court, told Reuters he guessed at least 600 babies were sold a year in the southern Campania region alone.

Melita Cavallo, a judge at the court, said in an interview: "We have not been able to stop this trade... If you do not put up a barrier, if people think it is easy, it increases."

"When it is a question of 40 to 50 million lire (\$29,000 to 37,000)... some people are prepared to do anything."

The mothers of the babies for

sold the children of young prostitutes, Cavallo said. But these were isolated cases.

She believes that in many hospitals and clinics in the region there are intermediaries, nurses, doctors or other staff, who persuade young mothers to sell their babies.

The intermediaries have a list of potential parents and the sale can be arranged within hours. Cavallo said in one recent case a teenager gave birth at eight in the evening and within 12 hours a false father had arrived to claim the child.

Late in December Cavallo persuaded a young mother to confess that a man claiming her new-born child was not the real father. But then she asked how much the court would pay for her baby. "I've had it in my belly for nine months, how much is it a month?" she said.

Cavallo added: "But this is an exceptional case. Normally the girl just wants to get rid of the baby and forget the experience."

In another episode discovered by Cavallo three men and a woman came to a distraught man's house hours after he had learned at the hospital that his 15-year-old daughter was pregnant by her brother.

They laid piles of banknotes totalling 30 million lire (\$22,000) on the table and proposed taking the girl away until she gave birth. "When we have the baby you can have her back plus another 20 million (\$14,500)," they said.

The father refused but discovered later, after his daughter abandoned her baby at the hospital, that it had been claimed by a false father and taken away.

In other cases girls have given birth with the name of the false new mother. "So the baby is born legitimately and nothing emerges. Unfortunately this happens," Cavallo said.

She said one convicted criminal had been caught trying to claim a new-born baby. We had hoped to sell it to a couple and then blackmail them by threatening to reveal the deal.

Cavallo says a trade once confined mainly to peasants and old couples now involves respectable professional people from all classes who want to avoid the long delays and stringent rules required for legal adoption.

"Now it has become so simple everybody is doing it," she said. Cavallo and Ciampa are frustrated by weaknesses in the law and by widely varying attitudes in different courts. Some judges treat defendants indulgently, taking the view that the trade neatly solves both the problem of the unmarried mother and the childless couple.

Under present rules the juvenile court often has to pass a case to normal judges after a preliminary investigation, causing years of delays. "Out of hundreds of cases a few dozen have come to trial and nobody has been sent to jail for more than a few months," Cavallo said.

She said Ciampa want the juvenile court given total responsibility for child selling cases.

"The judgment must not be fragmented, some for us and some for other judges. We should have total jurisdiction so that contradictory judgments can be avoided," Ciampa said.

Pimps are also known to have



Before the revolution in Nicaragua, 120 out of every 1,000 babies born died. Despite the war and near economic collapse, vaccination and other measures have now cut the death rate to 65. The government aims to reduce even this figure by half.

Unhealthy times in Nicaragua

By Robert Walgate

The revolution in Nicaragua brought a drastic improvement in the provision of health care to the poor. But now the system is threatened by a collapsing economy.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has announced plans to reduce infant mortality by half, having already reduced it to 65 per 1,000 since the time of the dictator Somoza — when 120 of each 1,000 babies failed to survive their first year.

But ten years after the revolution, the Sandinistas' greatest success — the health system — is creaking under the weight of a collapsing economy.

An epidemic of virulent malaria is raging in rice-growing lowlands, and tuberculosis and killer childhood diarrhoea and respiratory diseases are increasing once more.

Some diseases, however, are coming under control: those involving vaccination, and where international financing has been available — like polio (eliminated in 1982 with help from the private foundation Rotary International), all, and diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and measles.

The real problem in the rest of the health system is money. In the face of the attacks from the contra rebels, Nicaragua's defence spending grew from 20 per cent of the budget in 1980 to over 50 per cent in 1987. All other sectors were squeezed; although health is given the same high priority as education, the health budget fell from 14 per cent to just 9 per cent of government spending.

In addition, as a result of inflation, doctors' salaries are worth only a fifth of their real value in 1980. A hospital auxiliary earns 20,000 cordobas a month — and a pair of shoes costs 22,000 cordobas. A trained nurse earns 32,000 cordobas, and a doctor 150,000-200,000 cordobas (about \$30-40) a month.

Essential medical equipment, such as refrigerators to store vaccines, cannot be repaired because spares are unobtainable, and because technicians have left to find better incomes in private medicine, industry and agriculture. I spoke to Carlos Vanzetti, a

West German neurosurgeon who came to Nicaragua to fight with the Sandinistas against Somoza, and was six months in the mountains before the revolution succeeded. Although he is paid U.S.\$500 monthly by a German charity — a fortune by Nicaraguan standards — he says he finally feels compelled to spend half his week in private practice. (Of Nicaragua's total spending on health, half is in private hands.)

"Many friends of the Sandinistas are having to leave," he says. Economically, under the pressure of what the United States calls a "low-intensity war," plus the U.S. trade embargo, the country is on its knees. The war has resulted in the death, injury or kidnap of over 50,000 people — nearly 2 per cent of Nicaragua's population of 3.4 million — and caused economic damage valued at the equivalent of 45 years of current export earnings.

The U.S. trade embargo begun in 1984 wiped out 30 per cent of Nicaragua's markets. The collapse of the Central American Common Market under the pressure of the international debt crisis lost Nicaragua another 20 per cent of exports. Falls in world commodity prices have done yet more damage, while Hurricane Joan which devastated the cities of Bluefields on the Atlantic coast, and El Rama on the Rio Escondido, and flattened thousands of hectares of forests, has cost another two years of exports at the current level, according to government estimates.

The United States offered no aid after the hurricane. The World Bank has stopped lending to the Nicaraguan government. Debts total \$9,000 million.

An increase in trade with Western Europe has staved off even worse problems, and much military equipment has been bought by barter trade with the Soviet Union and East Germany. But the balance of payments deficit is

now nudging \$500 million. Food crop production also appears to have declined, with shortages of the local staples, rice and beans.

Under these circumstances it is difficult to see how anyone, even doctors, can be paid anything — and indeed the government is printing money, with a 50,000 per cent inflation last year alone. At the beginning of the year a Cordoba was 2 cents; at the end it was worth 0.02 U.S. cents. And in December, President Daniel Ortega warned that if 1988 looked difficult, 1989 would be very difficult.

Meanwhile, health workers struggle on. Dr. Dousella Torres, for example, in charge of the vaccination programme for a region including the capital (which receives constant influxes of refugees from the mountains in the north), believes all children in her area, from hovel dwellers in the city to the rural poor, will be receiving polio vaccine (purchased by Rotary International) by this March.

Oral polio vaccine is easy to administer, whereas coverage with injected vaccines like DPT (diphtheria, whooping cough — pertussis — and tetanus) and measles is lower (around 40-50 per cent). But Dr. Torres is making all efforts to increase the proportions.

Together we visited a health centre in Managua which covers 60,000 people in one of the poorest areas of the region. There Tania Perez, the director, says the main problem is diarrhoea — with 31 deaths this year, 29 of them of babies under one year old (out of 2,160 births). Hygiene is poor: half the area does not have proper sanitation — though there is a public campaign to build new latrines. She cannot afford equipment to test the water.

With 200 permanent workers — and 400 more volunteers for vaccination campaigns — Perez actively searches for cases of diarrhoea, supplies oral rehydration therapy and provides education for the mothers. She says she can't rely on the mothers to make up the oral rehydration mixture

by dissolving an exact mixture of salts in water, during their babies' illness ("they are used to antibiotics"); and she has too few cooks to make up the solution at the health centre.

One of Perez's special and growing problems is tuberculosis (TB): she has 37 cases, 22 of whom are children. But there were no cases in 1986 or 1987. "As the economic crisis worsens, the TB cases go up," she said.

Nutrition levels are also falling: many of her children are undernourished, and "almost daily" she is now seeing children suffering from the protein-deficiency disease kwashiorkor.

Even the army is underfed: I hired a car, and one day gave a lift to a national serviceman: he begged for food. Two days earlier, a rice truck heading for Managua had been hijacked by three men, one of them reportedly wearing army uniform.

Back in the Managua health centre, Tania Perez showed me her refrigerators for storing vaccine: most were out of order, and the only working machine was ten years old. On its last repair, the technician told her that the failures were caused by fluctuations in the voltage supply. The electricity had already halted five times that day. Even the Nicaragua central vaccine store hangs on a knife edge, with two of the main cold cabinets relying on single compressors (two are needed for safety).

Perez told me that vaccination levels were held back by low levels of education — with pregnant women refusing vaccines. Even worse, a church group that is strong in the area, the Evangelical Church — a "counter-revolutionary force" says Perez — teaches people to refuse "foreign bodies" in the blood, including vaccinations. "So we are being more aggressive in health education," she says. Although illiteracy is now down to 21 per cent, reading ability and attention spans are not great, and the need is for films, seminars and audiovisuals.

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Japan to give more aid

TOKYO (R) — Japan plans to spend more both defending itself and helping out the Third World in the coming year, government officials said Monday.

The government's draft budget calls for it to shell out 3.92 trillion yen (\$31 billion) on defence and 756 billion yen (\$5.9 billion) on economic assistance in the year beginning April 1.

That represents a 5.9 per cent increase in defence spending and a 7.8 per cent rise in aid outlays if yen terms.

Government officials said that the plans mean that Japan's de-

achieve what it promised at the Toronto economic summit to boost foreign aid over the next five years.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told reporters. Before 1987, the Japanese government used an artificial ceiling for defence spending of one per cent of GNP to fend off criticism from Asian neighbours worried about a resurgence of Japanese militarism.

"Although the defence agency sticks to its policy of increasing defence spending in an orderly manner, it will need more money as its military equipment becomes more sophisticated," Defence

Minister Kichiro Tazawa told reporters.

The defence budget includes an 18.2 per cent increase in spending to help maintain U.S. military bases in Japan, to 142.3 billion yen (\$1.1 billion).

The United States, wrestling to reduce its huge budget deficit, has been pressing Japan to increase its support for American military bases here.

"I believe the United States will give us high marks for that," Tazawa said.

Both the defence agency and the Foreign Ministry successfully wrangled more money out of the tight-fisted Finance Ministry in negotiations over the last week.

The Finance Ministry had originally proposed a 5.2 per cent increase in defence spending, the same as this year, and a 5.9 per cent increase in aid.

Officials said the talks went relatively smoothly, a development analysts said was due to the large amount of tax revenues the government expects to rake in from the booming economy.

The government budget bill must be approved by parliament, but given the ruling party's overwhelming majority there, its passage is virtually a foregone conclusion, analysts said.

Wave of mergers worries Canadians

TORONTO (AP) — A flurry of mergers in Canadian airline, beer and gasoline industries have ignited concern that prices will rise and competition will fall as Canadian companies strive to compete in the U.S. and world markets.

A top goal for the new, larger Molson Breweries Company is to more than double exports to the United States, where Canadian beer has been gaining popularity. Molson had been the second biggest beer company in Canada while Carling O'Keefe was third.

Thursday, Canadian Airlines International announced it was buying out Wardair for about \$202.4 million (241 million Canadian) in cash and stock. The smaller Wardair had run a low-fare operation held up as a model for 'entrepreneurship', largely based on founder Max Ward's background as a bush pilot in the Yukon territory.

The sale reduces fare pressure on privately owned Canadian and on Air Canada, which is 55 per cent owned by the government.

David McKendry of the Consumers Association of Canada said the merger announcements were bad news. "It means big business is getting bigger and that means higher prices. In this case, big is definitely not better," he told the Toronto Sun.

Friday, no. 1 oil company Imperial Oil Ltd. won the bidding for no. 4 Texaco Canada with about \$4.1 billion (4.9 billion Canadian). Imperial is 70 per cent owned by U.S.-based Exxon.

The only larger deal in the Canadian oil industry was last year's \$4.6 billion (5.5 billion Canadian) purchase of Dome Petroleum Ltd. by Hmoco Canada.

The free trade issue was muted in the week's three announcements because the Canadian beer industry received special protection in the pact signed last year by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and then-president Ronald Reagan. American airlines did not get unlimited access to Canadian airports under the deal and local gas stations also were excluded.

The Federal Bureau of Competition has forced nine companies to restructure or abandon their mergers since 1986. At least two others were brought before a competition tribunal for public hearings, according to the Globe and Mail newspaper. It said the bureau's statistics show the number of acquisitions in Canada increased from 641 in 1984 to 1,082 in 1987.

Regulations require companies to wait 21 days from announcement to complete a merger, although the competition bureau still can require changes after that three-week period.

Shirley Carr, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, said she was concerned about the potential for lost jobs. "The corporations decided we should have free trade and now, ever since the election, we've been hearing about nothing but mergers and closures," she told the Toronto Star.

Mulroney's Progressive Conservative Party won its second consecutive majority government in the Nov. 21 election, clearing the way for the trade agreement to take effect after the bitterly fought campaign.

Imperial, which markets under the Esso brand in Canada, guaranteed the jobs and benefits of the 3,300 Texaco employees, but some job reduction was expected as a result of the beer and airline mergers.

A recent study by the federal government's Statistics Canada Agency showed that the share of business assets held by the top 25 Canadian corporations increased to 35.1 per cent in 1986 from 29.6 per cent 10 years before.

Israel targets Dead Sea for oil

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said Monday Israel would begin drilling for oil in the Dead Sea in October.

"We are planning a deep drill in the Dead Sea in October, to go for the first time through the salt there and find out if there is oil or not," he said at a news conference.

"We have spoken of this for many years and I support those who think there is a very high

probability of finding oil in the Dead Sea area," he said.

Aides said the hole would explore an area 6,000 metres below the surface.

The salty waters of the Dead Sea, nearly 400 metres below sea level, are rich in minerals.

Shahal also said Egypt continues to supply oil independent of differences such as those over the Tabá Red Sea enclave.

He said Egyptian Petroleum Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil told him the supply of oil "is entirely a relationship between a purchaser and a supplier and this relationship will continue without any connection to political problems."

Israel buys some 4.5 million tonnes of Egyptian oil a year and sells Egypt \$80 million worth of oil products refined here.

Oman hopes for new oil finds

MUSCAT (R) — Omanis are scouring their mountainous Gulf state for fresh oil reserves to steer their economy through the fluctuations of world petroleum prices.

But after sharply lower crude prices in recent years, prospects are looking up for the country, which relies on oil for three-quarters of its revenues.

It has based its 1989 budget on an oil price of around \$12.50 a barrel, yet its crude is currently trading around \$2.50 above that on international markets.

"I believe there is a chance of an increase in price (in 1989), but not much...if the price of oil goes to \$15 or \$16, we will be very glad," Oil Minister Said Ibn Ahmad Al Shanfari said in an interview with Reuters.

Oman, bordering the Gulf and the Arabian Sea, is banking on exploration to boost oil reserves that are modest compared with those of neighbouring Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emi-

rates. It is also a key player in efforts to win more cooperation on stabilising prices between the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC states like itself.

Shanfari flew to Moscow last week after talks in Muscat with OPEC Secretary-General Subroto. Soviet officials said after Shanfari's trip that they would attend as observers at a planned meeting in London of OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

But the key to the future of Oman's 1.5 million people lies in building up reserves.

"Our reserves have already climbed up to 4.2 billion barrels," Shanfari said in the interview.

"We are building up reserves every year by sometimes 100 million barrels, sometimes 30 million," after taking exports into account, he added.

A Western financial analyst in Oman said the country had adapted well when oil prices tum-

bled. "They have done a remarkably good housekeeping job here after the oil price crash in 1986."

He said recession that hit the Gulf as a whole had not spared Oman, but that development of agriculture, fisheries and light industries and controls on government spending led the country to weather the storm well.

Oman plans to pump 600,000 barrels of oil daily in 1989, the same as last year.

Expecting an oil price of about \$12.50 per barrel, Oman last year forecast a 1989 budget deficit of 402 million Omani riyals (\$1.06 billion) against a 1988 deficit of 252 million riyals (\$655 million).

But Oman's oil was on sale last week for around \$15 per barrel, after world prices firmed when a new OPEC pact to curb output took effect from the beginning of January.

Budget revenue in 1989 is estimated at 1.21 billion riyals (\$3.14 billion), more than 10 per cent down on 1988.

S. Arabia moves ahead in restructuring oil industry

ABU DHABI (R) — Saudi Arabia has taken a new step in restructuring its oil industry by establishing a local refining and marketing company, but the organisation's details are still vague, oil industry sources in the Gulf said.

Oil Minister Hisham Nazer announced the establishment of the Saudi Arabian Refining and Marketing Company (Samar) last week to take over all refinery and marketing activities from state agency Petromin.

Oil industry sources said Petromin will remain as a holding company to oversee oil and

mineral operations. "The announcement (on Samar) has been made, but it will take a while for the company to be operational," an oil analyst in the Gulf said. "The details are still lacking."

Gulf oil sources said the new company might start functioning early this summer.

Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest oil exporter with an OPEC production quota of 4.524 million barrels per day. After a price crash in 1986 it set out to cut costs and integrate operations from the oil fields to petrol stations in consumer states.

In November, it established the

Saudi Arabian Oil Company to take over the management of its oil fields from Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) and set up a joint venture with Texaco to refine and sell oil products in 23 American states.

Gulf-based oil traders said the new company could be based in Jeddah, rather than in Riyadh, where the General Petroleum and Mineral Organisation of Saudi Arabia (Petromin) is located.

Sources said Petromin will relinquish all domestic refineries and its share in two joint venture refineries in Jeddah and Jubail to Samar.

China's foreign trade surges 16.6%

PEKING (AP) — China's foreign trade was up 16.6 per cent in 1988 despite economic disarray, sharp spending cuts and restrictions on some imports and exports, the trade ministry announced Monday.

Exports reached \$40.1 billion, up 15.5 per cent, while imports increased 17.7 per cent over 1987 to \$39.3 billion, said Liu Xiangdong, spokesman for the ministry of foreign economic relations and trade.

The surplus of \$785 million on total trade of \$79.4 billion was the second in a row, following a surplus of \$1.3 billion in 1987, Liu said at a news conference.

The ministry's figures, as is normally the case, differed substantially from those of the State Statistical Bureau, which last week said China had a deficit of \$7.7 billion on total trade of

\$102.9 billion. Foreign economists consider the statistical bureau's figures to be more complete and generally look at them in assessing China's trade picture, said an economist at a Western embassy in Peking.

The trade ministry does not include such items as the import of equipment for Sino-foreign joint ventures and donations from Chinese living abroad. It calculates only the value-added figure for processed exports.

The statistical bureau, however, calculates the full value of both imported raw materials and processed exports.

Liu said that, through November, trade with the Hong Kong region was \$18.76 billion, up 33.9 per cent over the same 11 months in 1987.

Trade with Japan hit \$12.66 billion, up 10.8 per cent; trade

with the European Community was \$8.57 billion, up 4.1 per cent and trade with the United States was \$7.14 billion, a growth of 27.7 per cent.

He said 5,890 foreign-invested enterprises were newly approved in 1988 — 164 per cent more than in 1987. They included 410 wholly owned foreign enterprises, eight times the number for 1987.

Liu stressed that austerity measures taken in September to cut runaway spending on capital construction and reduce inflation did not hurt foreign trade or investment.

He said the foreign loans executed amounted to \$3.62 billion in the second half of 1988, up from \$2.88 billion in the first half. The number of joint ventures approved and paid-up foreign investment also rose in the second half of the year.

Poland fears lowering living standards

WARSAW (R) — The Polish government, facing high inflation and fears of unrest, is under conflicting pressures to raise or lower living standards in 1989, Finance Minister Andrzej Wroblewski said in an interview.

He told Reuters the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was pressing Warsaw to lower living standards by about 10 per cent this year and speed up efforts to balance the economy.

But Wroblewski said the government was also "under tremendous social pressure to increase living standards and return at least to the level of 1978."

Opposition economists calculate that per capita income in 1988 was still 13 per cent below 1978, Poland's best year before the crash of the late 1970s and

early 1980s. He estimated 1988 inflation at 60-70 per cent compared with 26 per cent in 1987 and said the 1989 target was 55 per cent, but did not indicate how this reduction would be achieved.

Wroblewski indicated Poland was unlikely to meet IMF conditions but said Poland hoped for an agreement with the fund in 1989 which could allow normalisation of relations with the Paris Club of creditor states and new World Bank credits.

The country's current political atmosphere, with the government edging to an accord with the banned Solidarity trade union, was a favourable factor, he said.

"Our assessment is that the only realistic thing under current conditions is to maintain existing

"standards while improving economic growth," he said.

An IMF mission was due in Poland within five weeks and Wroblewski hoped that formal talks for IMF approval for the government's economic adjustment programme would open soon.

Wroblewski said despite improved exports Poland was still able to pay only about half the annual interest on its \$37.9 billion foreign debt which was growing.

"At the moment we are repaying \$1.7 to \$2 billion annually. It is only about half of our obligations. We should pay \$3.5 to \$4 billion a year," he said.

cars.

"The last year, people really have been buying less," said Anne Titlerstad, manager of Tronmo Bookstore near the centre of Oslo. "I think people are cutting down on luxuries — if you can call it luxuries — like going to the cinema or taking a taxi."

Austerity was a slap in the face for some Norwegians, long accustomed to a far-reaching safety net of social services as the tradeoff for taxes that take about half of a middle-income person's wages.

About a third of the 307-billion-kroner (\$45.8 billion) federal budget will go for pensions. Qualified Norwegians can expect free

nition through college and comprehensive health care.

As a general rule, the unemployed are entitled to collect 63 per cent of their past regular income for a maximum of 80 weeks.

Though many countries might be envious of Norway's 3.2 per cent unemployment figure, that December rate was more than double the figure for December 1987, and it's expected to keep climbing.

"Unemployment is a necessary evil to improve the trade balance and hold down domestic demand," said Hans Petter Wilse, an economist at Norges Bank, the central bank. "The increase is not what we want, but it's necessary to avoid an even worse situation in the future."

As the banks tightened credit, one result was a wave of bankruptcies.

Last year, 3,494 companies filed bankruptcy petitions, up 81 per cent from the previous year. Most victims were small businesses with fewer than 10

employees. The government of Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, a Social Democrat, has had to enforce some unpopular measures to keep the economy afloat. Last summer, a wage-restriction law limited increases to one krona per hour, or 15 cents.

The measure means that most workers are not keeping abreast of inflation, which was measured at an annual rate of 5.6 per cent in December. But it has helped bring inflation down.

In 1987, inflation reached 8.7 per cent. Wilse said the decline was encouraging, but "not as much as we had hoped."

Other encouraging signs, on paper at least, are in improved trade balance, lower interest rates and indications that Norwegians are saving more.

While the central bank isn't claiming those figures will translate into prosperity, it says they are signs that the economy is heading back to an even keel.

That may be small comfort, though, for people trying to make do with less money amid rising prices.

Several Norwegians said in interviews that widespread dissatisfaction could turn into trouble for the government, which has been in office since spring 1986. Income taxes have gone up every year since then, and a national election is scheduled Sept. 11.

Many Norwegians also feel too much of their tax money is simply going to feed big government.

"The government undermines its own austerity policy," Aftenposten, the country's biggest daily newspaper, said in a December editorial. "With a swelling state budget, a weaker national economy has to carry a constantly heavier state."

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Nadir buys 3rd Turkish press group

ISTANBUL (R) — Asil Nadir of Polly Peck International PLC strengthened his grip on the Turkish newspaper market with the purchase of a third press group. Nadir, a rich British businessman of Turkish-Cypriot origin, personally bought the popular Gunes newspaper and the Limon weekly humorous magazine, spokeswoman Nil Adula said. Nadir promised not to change staff and to consolidate the position of Gunes — "the sun" — in the highly competitive Istanbul newspaper market. Gunes sources said the middle-of-the-road newspaper's circulation had shrunk to about 120,000, half its sales in recent years, and that Limon sold some 80,000 copies a week. Adula said no negotiations to buy other publications were in progress at present. Nadir bought the Gunaydin newspaper group last July, since when its sales have doubled, and earlier this month bought the prestigious Gelisim magazine and encyclopaedia group.

Blanca gets top U.N. economic job

UNITED NATIONS (R) — France's former ambassador to Argentina, a one-time literature professor, was appointed to the U.N. post of director-general for development and international economic cooperation. Antoine Blanca, 52, succeeds his compatriot Jean Ripert in the top economic job in the New York secretariat. In making the appointment, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar continued the tradition of appointing a director-general from a developed nation when the top U.N. post, his own, is occupied by someone from the Third World. Perez de Cuellar is from Peru.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, Jan. 23, 1989
Central Bank official rates

| | Buy | Sell | French franc | 77.8 | 78.2 |
|----------------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.S. dollar | 488.0 | 490.0 | Japanese yen (for 100) | 380.9 | 382.8 |
| Pound Sterling | 865.4 | 869.7 | Dutch guilder | 24.8 | 256.0 |
| Deutschemark | 265.0 | 266.3 | Swedish crown | 71.7 | 78.1 |
| Swiss franc | 312.2 | 313.8 | Italian lira (for 100) | 36.2 | 36.4 |
| | | | Belgian franc (for 10) | 126.8 | 127.4 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

| | 1.7690/7700 | U.S. dollar |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.1890/1900 | Canadian dollar |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.8455/62 | Deutschemark |
| | 2.0833/43 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5643/50 | Swiss francs |
| | 38.62/65 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.2825/75 | French francs |
| | 1352/1353 | Italian lire |
| | 128.1/128.3 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.2830/80 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.6950/80 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.1510/60 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 407.55/408.05 | U.S. dollars |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Overseas buying of leading mining stocks boosted the market amid uncertainty over the collapse of Equicorp International. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 5.1 at the day's high of 1,523.0.

TOKYO — Prices closed higher on bargain-hunting and news of a stronger yen and lower oil prices. The Nikkei Index rose 162.50 to 31,332.88.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed steady after overseas buyers reversed earlier losses. The Hang Seng Index fell 0.38 to 2,897.53.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed after profit-taking pared early gains in fairly active trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 0.69 to 1,096.00 as falls led gains by about 94 to 73.

BOMBAY — Prices fell on a broad front in the aftermath of a humiliating defeat suffered by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Tamil Nadu state elections.

FRANKFURT — Prices regained some ground in patchy trading after early losses with blue chips leading the declines. The 30-share Real Time Dax Index lost 4.93 to 1,318.21.

ZURICH — Prices were steady on low volume trading and dealers said interest rate concerns no longer had much negative impact. The All-Share Swiss Index rose 0.8 to 962.1.

PARIS — Shares were easier on the final session of the account as operators took profits after watching prices climb steadily since December. The 50-share bourse indicator fell by 0.82 per cent.

LONDON — Prices eased in late trading after an early surge on Wall Street ran out of steam. At 1621 GMT the FTSE 100 Index was up 4.2 at 1,921.7.

NEW YORK — Blue chips fell in line with the dollar's decline but bonds were mostly firmer. The Dow was down four at 2,232.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

To: **FUJISTU CO.** in Jordan and Japan.
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Jordan Rally '89

AMMAN (J.T.) — The route for the 1989 Jordan International Rally, scheduled for May 17-19 has been finalized by the organizing committee. The rally will pass many areas of historic and tourist interest.

Leg one on Wednesday May 17 is based in and around the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, there will be 7 high speed special stages — all but one on asphalt roads.

The second leg on Thursday May 18 will reach Qatana in the south but the main focus of interest will be the regrouping halt

at Ma'in Spa Village and the subsequent 14 kilometre special stage from the spa, which is below sea level, up to the top of the hills near Madaba.

Leg three — and the longest of the rally — will reach Petra where the main regrouping halt will be located. The winning car is expected to arrive at the finish point at the Marriott Hotel at 7.00 p.m. on Friday May 19.

Total distance of the rally will be approximately 1,100 kms including 31 special stages which will account for about 300 kms.

U.K. board bars Eddie Edwards from circuit

LONDON (R) — Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards has been dropped from next month's world ski jumping championships because the British Ski Federation thinks he is jumping worse than ever.

Edwards, who is currently in the United States recovering from injury, said he would be complaining.

But John Leaning, Nordic director of the Federation, said on Sunday: "We set Eddie a minimum standard to achieve for entering the world championships. He had to jump within 25 per cent of an international competition-winning jump. He hasn't done that."

"He has been jumping worse during the past year than ever before and I think the trouble has been that Eddie has been spending so much time on commercial ventures."

"I can understand why, but he is going to have to take time off from these to concentrate on his training."

Edwards now fears that orga-

nisers of other international ski jump competitions may follow Britain's lead and stop him from taking part.

He said: "I am very shocked at this. I did not expect this to happen and had been looking forward to taking part in the championships."

He is still recovering from the broken collarbone and bruised kidneys he suffered during a disastrous practice jump in Austria earlier this month.

He added: "I aim to show everyone that this year Eddie Edwards will be a success if given the chance."

"I do take my sport very seriously. I do train and I do not want to be a failure. I even practice my take off technique in my hotel bedroom. I admit I haven't been jumping all that well recently but I know I have improved and can do much better this year."

Edwards sprang to fame at the Winter Olympics in Calgary

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pakistan beats the Dutch 2-1 in Gandhi Cup final

LUCKNOW, India (R) — Pakistan retained the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup Sunday when they beat the Netherlands 2-1 in a hockey final interrupted by a dispute between the Pakistani manager and the Dutch players. Manager Isiah Uddin rushed on to the field early in the second half after one of his players had been hit on the head by a Dutch stick. Uddin's incursion upset the Dutch players who began pushing him and the game was held for three minutes before the umpires restored order.

High court overrules summons on South Africa

LONDON (R) — Legal moves to stop a test ban on cricketers with South African links on the grounds it would amount to blackmail were quashed Monday. The high court overturned a criminal summons issued to the civil liberties organisation the freedom association by a magistrate Saturday alleging that plans by cricket's world governing body to impose a test ban was blackmail. Lord Justice Taylor, sitting in London with Mr. Justice McNeill, said the application for the summons was "an abuse of the process of the court" and was "launched solely as a device to disrupt or embarrass the International Cricket Conference." The summons, said the judge, was a "criminal sledgehammer to deal with a problem which is entirely civil."

Koeman signs reported \$10 million deal

BARCELONA (R) — PSV Eindhoven's Ronald Koeman signed a four-year contract with Spanish side Barcelona Sunday in one of the most expensive transfer deals in soccer history. Spanish newspapers reported Barcelona were paying a total of 10 million dollars for the libero — six million to PSV and one million dollars a year to Koeman, who joins his new club in July. Barcelona officials declined to comment on the amount being paid for the 25-year-old Dutch international, one of the game's outstanding players. Previous big money deals include the \$8.5 million transfer of Dutchman Ruud Gullit from PSV to AC Milan last year, and Argentine Diego Maradona's \$7.5 million move from Barcelona to Napoli in 1984.

One dead, four injured in Monte Carlo crash

MONTE CARLO (R) — A spectator was killed and four people injured, one of them seriously, in a crash during the Monte Carlo Rally Monday, police said. They said Italian driver Alessandro Fiorio skidded and drove into a ravine, taking five spectators with him. Fiorio and his co-pilot received only scratches in the crash, the second involving the Italian driver's Lancia in the last two days. The crash occurred after the first eight drivers had already gone past. The other 137 drivers were diverted to the next special stage of the race. According to race regulations, they will receive the same time for the stage, the fifth timed section from Chateau de Boulogne to Lys. The 137 drivers will be marked down as having completed the stage in the 21 minutes 43 seconds taken by Hannu Mikkola of Finland, slowest of the eight drivers who finished the stage. Fiorio, the 23-year-old son of Lancia racing chief Cesare Fiorio, was involved in an accident Sunday when two spectators were injured.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Use this day to develop business procedures. Conferences, discussions and meetings of any nature may bring forth new ideas for the future. The creative arts will inspire many.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Give advice only when asked, otherwise mum's the word. Stay with familiar routines. You are likely to stand alone on some issues.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make plans for festive occasions in the near future. A conservative winter vacation might chase away the winter blues.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Phone calls take up valuable time and force you to listen to those who have nothing important to say. Improve your lifestyle.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23) Ask for a raise if you feel that you are not being compensated fairly. Examine a complicated financial situation. Make the necessary adjustments.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23) Affectionate attention will smooth

over an emotional snarl. Willing hearts can solve problems when faced with misfortune.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23) What you perceive as social failure is more fantasy than reality. Point yourself in another direction and line up with a new group.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) When dealing with your mate's personal objectives, try an expansive outlook for better results. Social romantic resolutions blossom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Experimentation with change is not recommended this day. Don't turn over a challenging situation to those who do not have experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Much can be accomplished today. All systems are go. Plan vacations, long trips, and lifestyle objectives.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you enjoy gadding about, go check out new places while you are in the mood. Keep social events in line with your sleep patterns.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you feel that it is checkout time with a relationship, give it a little more time to make sure. Speak your mind graciously.

XXIII Super Bowl

49ers steal last minute title

MIAMI (AP) — Joe Montana hit John Taylor with a 10-yard touchdown pass with 34 seconds left in the game Sunday as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 20-16 in the most dramatic Super Bowl ever.

The victory was achieved through the brilliance of Joe Montana and Jerry Rice, who was named the game's most valuable player.

The winning score came at the end of a 92-yard drive, engineered by Montana, whose arm gave him a Super Bowl record with 357 yards passing. Twelve of his completions were to Rice for 222 yards, which was also a record.

It was the fifth straight win for a National Football Conference team, but by far the most dramatic — the previous four had been by average score of 41-14.

After the game, U.S. President George Bush called National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle and invited the victorious 49ers to visit the White House.

In San Francisco, horns blared, Roman candles lit the sky and strangers kissed in the streets with news of the hometown victory.

The win also gave coach Bill Walsh his third Super Bowl win in 10 seasons as the 49ers' coach. It would be a fitting climax to a career that may end this week when the 57-year-old Walsh might announce his departure.

The winning drive began after Jim Breech had kicked his third field goal of the game, a 40-yarder with 3:20 left, to give the Bengals a 16-13 lead. A holding call on the following kickoff forced the 49ers to start from their own 8 yardline with a little more than three minutes left in the game.

But Montana, who connected with 23 of 36 pass attempts, made himself the quarterback of the decade on the winning drive. He passed for 8 yards to Rice, 9 yards to tight end John Frank and 17 more to Rice. Then, he hit Roger Craig for 13 yards and hit Rice 27 yards over the middle on a second-and-20 play.

After an 8-yard pass to Craig, he hit Rice for 10 yards to set up the winning score to Taylor.

After Mike Cofer's 32-yard field goal tied the game 6-6 for San Francisco with 50 seconds left in the third quarter, the Bengals' Stanford Jennings took the kickoff 93 yards for a score, racing untouched through the San Francisco defense until Terry Greer ran him down and tripped him as he fell over the goal line.

But the 49ers, whose offense had sputtered, suddenly came to life. They went 85 yards in just four plays to tie the score at 13-13. Montana hit Rice for 31 yards, Craig for 40, then Rice for a touchdown in the left corner of the end zone from 14 yards out.

The 49ers got as far as the

Cincinnati 35 with 1:15 left.

The first half of what was supposed to be a shootout ended with the score tied 3-3 and each team licking major wounds. It was the first halftime tie in Super Bowl history and the first without a touchdown since Pittsburgh led Minnesota 2-0 at halftime 14 years ago.

The Bengals started without backup fullback Stanley Wilson, who was suspended by the league about five hours before the opening gun for what the league simply called "a violation of the NFL's substance abuse policy."

Wilson, whose NFL career began in 1983, had missed 2½ previous seasons, including all of 1985 and 1987 and had undergone rehabilitation for unspecified drug problems at least five times in the past.

Then the Bengals suffered another severe loss when all-pro nose tackle Tim Krumrie went out with 8:06 left in the first period with a broken left leg — both his tibia and fibula. He was the second starter to break his left leg in the first seven minutes — Steve Wallace, San Francisco's left tackle, suffered a broken tibia on the 49ers' third play from scrimmage.

Krumrie was hurt on the first play of a drive that carried the

49ers from their own 3 to the Bengals' 24 and culminated with the first score of the game, Cofer's 41-yard field goal with 3:14 left in the first period.

But it could have been worse for the Bengals — a 22-yard pass from Montana to Mike Wilson that was first ruled complete at the 2 was overruled when replay official Chuck Heberling said Wilson never had possession.

The 49ers blew a major opportunity on their next drive when they tried for 3 points instead of 7 on fourth down and a long one from the Cincinnati 2 and came up with nothing.

San Francisco had driven 68 yards on a drive featuring a 30-yard Montana — Rice hookup and 6-yard third down burst to the two by Tom Rathman from a four wide-receiver formation with two minutes gone in the second period. But after a time out, they elected to try the 19-yard field goal and when Randy Cross' snap was low, Cofer kicked it wide to the left of the goal posts, the shortest miss in Super Bowl history.

The Bengals tied it with 1:15 left in the half on Breech's 38-yard field goal following a 28-yard, six-play drive set up by Barry Helton's 37-yard punt.

Cincinnati got field position on Barry Helton's 37-yard punt. The Bengals took the second-half kickoff and despite five penalties used 9:11 to move from their own 14 to the San Francisco 25 and set up Breech's 43-yard field goal for a 6-3 lead.

The 49ers tied it at 6-6 on Cofer's 32-yard field goal with 50 seconds left in the third period.

But Jennings came right back with his kickoff return.

That almost seemed to energize the 49ers, who came right back.

There's no stopping him ...

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — Les Boatwright's death did not keep him from going to the Super Bowl Sunday. He was there in a small brass urn.

Boatwright, 75, died of heart attack Monday, clutching two Super Bowl tickets as he prepared to place a bet with his bookie, said Boatwright's widow, Midge.

His two sons took the urn carrying the ashes of the San Jose, California, resident to the U.S. championship football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Cincinnati Bengals.

Becker beaten in straight sets

MELBOURNE (R) — Jonas Svensson took third seed Boris Becker apart Monday to lead a Swedish surge into the quarter-finals of the Australian Open tennis.

Svensson won in straight sets 7-6, 6-4, 6-3 after two hours of superb tennis in which Becker was relegated to the role of virtual spectator.

In a surprise result to rival his defeat of Ivan Lendl in the 1988 French Open, Svensson took full advantage of the West German's inability to ignite his powerful first serve.

Becker, unusually tentative at the net, managed to fire less than half of his first serves in play while Svensson lost only 15 points on his serve.

Svensson, seeded 14, now meets unseeded compatriot Jan Gunnarsson, a 7-6, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Michiel Schapers of the Netherlands, as Swedish Pain eased over the second round dismissal of world number one Mats Wilander.

Goran Ivanesevic, a 17-year-old qualifier from Yugoslavia, became the youngest player since Becker in 1984 to reach the last eight here when he scraped past Mexico's Leonardo Lavalle in five sets 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.

"When I practised yesterday I felt as good as I could be," said Svensson. "It is the first time I have played Boris when I thought I could win from the beginning."

Becker was under pressure from early in the first set and never looked like finding an escape route after losing a first set tie-break 7-5.

His game was littered with unforced errors and Svensson took full advantage, firing winners from all parts of the court.

Becker also collected a warning for throwing away his racquet in frustration as the match began to slip away from him in the second set.

"When he started to scream I felt he was on his way down mentally," admitted Svensson, who reached the semifinal in Paris last year before losing to Henri Leconte.

Svensson felt Becker, who had break points in only two games,

contributed substantially to his own downfall.

"It was a little like he lost it, he made so many errors," he said.

Becker was generous in defeat, suggesting that Svensson's ability should never be underestimated.

"I wouldn't compare this with my defeats in previous years because Svensson is a good player."

"I had to give 110 per cent in the Davis Cup final and maybe I haven't had enough time to recover."

Svensson is confident he can go even further. "I will just play my game no matter who is on the other side of the net. I'm so confident I can do that now."

Ivanisevic recovered from two sets down against Lavalle, coached by Becker's former mentor Gunter Bosch, to win 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 thanks mainly to a ferocious forehand.

From 4-3 in the third Ivanisevic, who collected a code of conduct warning for hitting a ball into a nearby railway yard, upped the tempo as Lavalle wilted in the sun.

Catarina Lindqvist carried the

Swedish flag into the women's quarter-finals by beating Judith Wiesner of Austria 7-5, 6-2.

She will now play New Zealand's Belinda Cordwell.

Second seed Martina Navratilova will play Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova, seeded five, after they both won in straight sets against Australia's Hana Mandlikova and Catherine Tanvier of France respectively.

Mandlikova, in her third tournament after a six-month break with injury, only led Navratilova once after breaking her serve in the fifth game.

The American broke back immediately, took the first set on her second set point and ran away with the second set to post a 6-4, 6-1 victory.

"It's the best tennis I've played because I was pressed. The pressure was there and I came through but I was impressed with what Hana did," the second seed said later.

Sukova faced more serious problems before winning through 7-5, 6-4 on centre court against Tanvier.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TIME FOR SOME PESSIMISM

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 9 7 5
♥ Q 5
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ J 5 2

EAST
♠ J 4 3
♥ 10 9 6 4 2
♦ 10 8 7 5 3
♣ K 10 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ A K 8
♦ A Q
♣ A Q 9 7 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

There is no contract so easy that you can afford to relax your concentration. If you look only at the North-South hands, it might seem that declarer could claim his slam. He thought so, too, with disastrous results.

South's two-club opening was artificial and strong; the rest of the auction was natural. Five no trump showed interest in a grand slam and obviously inquired about trump

support—if South had been interested in general controls, he could have bid the hand differently. When North showed no top club honor, South elected to play six clubs to protect his tenaces.

Declarer won the spade lead in hand, crossed to dummy with the queen of hearts and led the jack of trumps. When East showed out, declarer could not avoid losing two trump tricks.

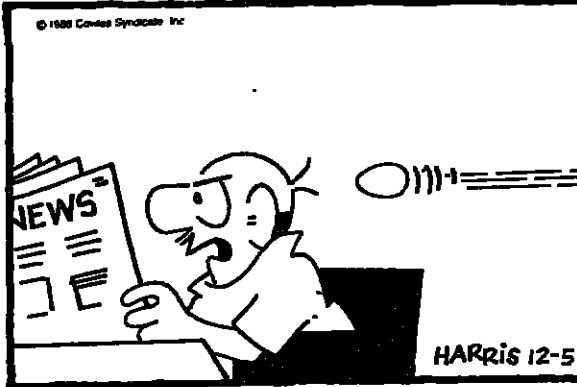
Correct technique is for South to win the first trick with the ace. Since only four trumps in the West-hand threatens the contract, declarer should next lay down the ace of clubs. Despite the bad news, the contract can still be made if declarer guesses the distribution.

Assuming that the two of spades lead indicates a four-card suit, declarer must overtake the queen of spades with the king and ruff a spade. He gets back to the queen of hearts and led the jack of trumps. When East showed out, declarer could not avoid losing two trump tricks. Try it!

West and declarer are now down to three trumps each. Declarer leads a diamond and ruffs with the queen of trumps. Whether West overruffs or not, he can score only one trump trick. Try it!

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm starving to death! Can't you get me my egg any faster?"

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GLONI

UGOBS

FROGLE

GROAND



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOOSE ANKLE PARITY SAVAGE

Answer: What their babies' bedroom was called — THE "NOISERY"

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

1 Cowboy item

8 Grateful bird

10 Fisherman's tool

14 "We all do" (Bible)

15 Curtail

16 Wheel support

17 Quotidian

20 Vegetables

21 So-so grade

22 Plus item

23 Pub pollution

24 Public notices

26 Once famous vaudeville team

35 Geometric line

36 Canine

37 Howard role

38 Fr. river

39 Distant

40 Flammable rock

41 Old laborer

42 Evergreen

43 Proclaimed

44 Former funny siblings

47 Strong beer

48 Bustle

49 Type of goose

53 Expert pilot

54 Indian

58 Onetime funny family team

62 "we got fun?"

63 Loathsome

64 Sand back

65 Promising

66 Mimicked

67 Got up

DOWN

1 Insolent

2 Inter —

3 Look

4 Hange loosely

6 Switch word

7 Bad temper

8 Proceed with difficulty

9 Sandy sound

10 Recent: prof.

11 Loose

12 WWI group

13 Skeddadle

14 Song or slug

15 Brilliance

16 Beat violently

17 Botany

18 Party open

19 Topper

20 Aryan



Despite intense campaigning and mobilisation of supporters, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress I Party suffered a humiliating defeat in Tamil Nadu. In one of many rallies, supporters campaigned in front of a giant portrait of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Gandhi defeat makes early election unlikely

MADRAS, India (R) — A regional party romped home in state elections in India's southern Tamil Nadu state Monday, humiliating Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party and making an early general election unlikely.

"A victory here would have persuaded him (Gandhi) to bring general elections forward, but now he will stick to the original schedule of year-end," said C.T. Kurien, director of the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

Because of India's ferocious summers, elections are held early or late in the year. The government's five-year term expires in December and the choice was between a quick poll in March or April or a full-term one in November or December.

Gandhi's conqueror in Saturday's Tamil Nadu state assembly elections was Tamil politician Muthuvel Karunanidhi, who led the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party to victory in the last major poll before the general election.

The DMK won 143 of the 232 seats at stake with eight results still to be declared. Congress (I) won only 25.

Two former film actresses, both claiming to be political heirs of the late movie idol and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, finished with fewer than 30 seats between them.

The faction headed by Ramachandran's mistress, Jayalalitha Jayaram, pushed Congress into third place by winning 27 seats. His widow Janaki lost her own seat and her party won only one.

"This election is a turning point in Tamil Nadu. It is an end to glamour politics, with people voting on ideological grounds," said a Congress leader and member of parliament, Jayanti Natarajan.

Two northeastern states, Mizoram and Nagaland, also voted Saturday.

Early results showed Congress with seven seats against five for a local grouping in Nagaland and Congress leading with three seats to two for local parties in Mizoram.

Victory in both these small states would not compensate for the huge defeat in the south because of Tamil Nadu's size and its 50 million Tamils with close ethnic links to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

Karunanidhi said after the results were declared that the Sri Lankan Tamil problem would be a priority issue for him.

He said the DMK victory would give him a better opportunity to help the Tamils in Sri Lanka, where some 50,000 Indian troops are trying to quell resistance by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Karunanidhi said LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had sent him a message expressing his hope for a DMK win.

Pretoria agrees to cut Namibia force

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — South Africa said Monday it was willing to eliminate 2,300 policemen from the territory as it prepared to grant independence to Africa's last colony. It also named a special envoy to Namibia.

South Africa has ruled Namibia, also known as South-West Africa, for 74 years, but has agreed to begin implementing a United Nations independence plan April 1, leading to elections Nov. 1.

South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said Sunday evening his country had informed United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the Namibian police force could be cut from 8,300 to 6,000 during the transition to independence.

Prior to Botha's announcement, South Africa had said it would reduce the police presence to 7,000. Botha said the revision was made after a "thorough analysis of the security requirements."

South Africa also has an estimated 50,000 soldiers in Namibia, but is required to reduce the

figure to 1,500 by the end of June under the U.N. plan.

Also, Willem Retief, currently South Africa's ambassador to West Germany, has been named special envoy to Namibia, the government-run South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) reported Monday.

Retief will serve as a liaison between the current transitional government, the South African-appointed administrator general and the U.N. special representative to Namibia, Mariti Ahtisaari, the SABC said.

In a related development, South Africa's acting president, Chris Heunis, was to meet Monday with local government officials from Namibia to discuss the independence process.

Heunis, serving as president while P.W. Botha recovers from a stroke, met Friday with the

Namibian cabinet for similar talks.

The U.N. in 1966 revoked South Africa's League of Nations mandate to govern Namibia. Since then, the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) has been waging a liberation war. SWAPO is widely regarded as the favourite to win the November elections.

U.N. peacekeeping troops are expected in Namibia by April, but the exact size of the force has not been determined. Black African nations and non-aligned countries want to send 7,500 troops at an estimated cost of \$700 million. However, the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, who will be paying most of the cost, want to limit the force to about 4,000 or 4,500 soldiers.

Rightist dissent

Dissident members of South Africa's biggest white supremacist group threatened Monday to form a breakaway movement after an unsuccessful attempt to

question their leader over his relationship with an ex-model.

The dissident members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) said a split in the political far right seemed inevitable after armed supporters of AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche Saturday ejected them from a meeting.

"It is a sad day for the Afrikaner cause... this is the beginning of the end for the AWB," dissident spokesman Dries Alberts told Reuters. "Terre Blanche was not man enough to stand up to questioning."

The wheelchair-bound Alberts's eviction by burly guards wearing uniforms reminiscent of Hitler's "Brownshirts" prevented him from calling for an inquiry into Terre Blanche's relationship with ex-model Jani Allan, now a journalist.

They were surprised by police last month after apparently breaking into a public monument after dark.

Allan, 37, earlier described the bearded AWB leader in her popular weekly interview column as a hunk. Both deny any roman-

tic involvement.

Fellow dissident Jan Groenewald, formerly Terre Blanche's deputy, told the Johannesburg Citizen newspaper that the AWB had shown itself to be disorganised and unconstitutional.

"It is now clear that the AWB cannot be saved any more. It is time for a new organisation to be formed," he said.

The AWB, espousing Afrikaner (Dutch descent) supremacy, strict racial segregation and the eventual formation of a whites-only homeland, refuses to say how many people support it. One newspaper estimated it had a following of about 100,000.

The extremist movement models itself on Hitler's Nazi Party with a Swastika-like flag, open palm salutes and strong military overtones.

It has gained its strongest support from poor Afrikaners who fear the increasing job and status competition from non-whites as the ruling right-wing National Party gradually reforms the republic's apartheid laws.

Dali — surrealism master who loved to shock

FIGUERAS, Spain (R) — Salvador Dali, the flamboyant Spanish surrealist painter who loved to shock, was a man of many masks and an enigma perhaps even to himself.

He never appeared to resolve the conflict between artist and showman within him. As everything he did was colourful and on an extravagant scale, critics sometimes wondered how great an artist he really was.

Dali, who died Monday aged 84, was one of the last survivors of a generation which stormed the art world in the 1930s.

One of the pioneers of surrealism, he was also a writer, stage designer, jeweller, filmmaker and book illustrator.

His pronouncements became as famous as his works — at the

age of seven he wrote an autobiography proclaiming his intention of being a genius.

Later he claimed his famous waxed moustaches were antennae picking up cosmic vibrations, and he once declared the railway station at the southwestern French town of Perpignan to be the centre of the universe.

But he was perhaps most famous for paintings in which he sought to impose a hallucinatory vision on reality and transform it with fantastic shapes and juxtapositions, such as the "Soft Watches" drooping over tables.

His meticulous technique lent an almost photographic air to dream-like pictures in which the same shape could resemble

both a swan and an elephant, a pile of rocks and a kneeling man.

Born in Figueras, in the northern corner of Catalonia, May 11, 1904, Dali studied art in the 1920s in Madrid and was suspended for a year for inciting students to insurrection.

Jailed briefly for subversion, he was finally expelled from college for refusing to sit an examination on the grounds that his professors were not competent to judge him.

Despite a friendship with Picasso, Dali was never interested in the cubist school's reconstructions of reality. His "Soft Watches", he said, represented Einstein's space-time concept and were made of "paranoic critical Camembert".

But his insistence on precise graphic style eventually led Dali away from the surrealists. By the late 1930s he had returned to classicism and was becoming influenced by the Italian Renaissance and its fleshy sensuality.

Late in life he became a recluse, shattered by the death of his Russian-born wife, Muse Gala in 1982. He said life meant nothing without her, had her buried at Pubol, shut himself away for two years and virtually stopped painting.

When the 1984 fire, caused probably by an electrical short circuit, engulfed his bedroom, Dali was found to be emaciated and doctors and friends said he had refused to eat because he wanted to die.



Salvador Dali

According to his last wishes, which only became known over the weekend, Dali will be buried surrounded by his own works in a crypt in the main room of his museum, which adjoins the Torre Galatea.

Scowcroft believes Cold War not over

WASHINGTON (R) — Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's national security adviser, said Sunday he does not believe the Cold War is over despite the recent improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Scowcroft, interviewed on ABC television's "This Week With David Brinkley," said that while Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev needs to ease tension to address the "awesome problem" of restructuring his country's economy, he also remains interested in "making trouble for the West."

"I think he believes the best way to do it is a peace offensive rather than to bluster the way some of his predecessors did," he said.

"I think the Cold War is not over. There may be light at the end of the tunnel (but) I think it depends partly on how we behave whether the light is the sun or an oncoming locomotive," he said.

Scowcroft, a soft-spoken retired air force general, expressed reservations about some of the Reagan administration's arms control policies such as its support for a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. He hinted the Bush administration might change or modify some of the U.S. proposals on the table at the so-called START talks in Geneva, scheduled to resume Feb. 15.

"We're not trying to slow down or delay (START talks) but we want to make sure that they are in fact in accord with exactly the way we want to proceed," Scowcroft said.

President Bush has said that while technical issues might be addressed in the interim, he and his advisers plan a full-scale review of U.S. arms policy before resuming substantive negotiations.

Scowcroft denied that he opposed former President



Brent Scowcroft

Reagan's cherished plan to construct a land-and-space-based shield against enemy missiles — the so-called Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) — but suggested that he believes the new administration should slow down the programme.

"I have been an opponent of moving forward with a massive programme until we understand clearly how it fits in with what we want to do," he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

3 Azerbaijanis disciplined over unrest

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's interior minister and two other ministers were among thousands of party and government figures disciplined after ethnic unrest in the republic last year, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Monday. Pravda said the interior minister, A. Mamedov, was given a strong reprimand and his deputy was dismissed. It said the minister of communal services and the minister of light industry were punished, but gave no further details. The official news agency TASS disclosed last week that more than 2,500 party and government officials in Azerbaijan had been disciplined for being actively involved in riots and demonstrations, encouraging them or failing to halt them. It did not specify who had been disciplined.

U.S. rallies mark abortion ruling

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of anti-abortion and pro-choice activists held rallies across the United States Sunday marking the 16th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalised abortions. "Change in direction is brought about by citizens at the grassroots level," Asa Hutchinson, a lawyer and former federal prosecutor, said at a rally in Little Rock, Arkansas. Opponents of abortion have been trying to win reversal of the 1973 court ruling legalising abortions during the first two-thirds of a pregnancy. The Supreme Court recently has decided to review a Missouri state law that declares life begins at conception, a case that could counteract the 1973 ruling. An estimated 4,500 abortion protesters marched in Saint Paul to the state Capitol. There were no arrests.

Chun's brother's term upheld

SEOUL (R) — An appeals court Monday upheld a seven-year jail sentence for the younger brother of former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan for involvement in a multi-million dollar corruption scandal, court officials said. Chun Kyung-Hwan, 45, was charged with embezzlement of more than \$10 million in public funds, tax evasion, accepting bribes and other irregularities while heading the state-backed Saeamul Rural Development Agency during his brother's eight-year rule. He was arrested shortly after the former strongman stepped down in February last year.

Basque group extends truce

MADRID (R) — The Basque separatist guerrilla group ETA said Sunday it was extending a two-week-old truce for the next two months to facilitate talks with the government. ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) announced the extension in a statement to the Basque newspaper Egin, its usual channel of communication. A spokesman for Egin quoted the statement as saying ETA was opening a "period of detente," which would last until the Basque national day March 26. "That clearly means a truce," he said. The statement said the extended truce followed an agreement between ETA and the government to begin negotiations in Algeria.

COLUMN

Gauguin on display in Paris

PARIS (AP) — Some 300 works by Paul Gauguin, the French painter who rejected the comforts of middle-class life to pursue art in the Polynesian wild, have gone on show at the Grand Palais in the first major retrospective of his work in 40 years. "Gauguin," running through April 24, is a two-million-dollar co-production with the Art Institute of Chicago and the Washington National Gallery of Art, which presented slightly different versions of the show last year. The French have not had a comprehensive look at Gauguin since 1949, and they have embraced his works wholeheartedly. The show has been billed as the blockbuster art event of the season, drawing some 6,000 visitors daily. Critics say the highlights are 11 paintings on loan from the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and Moscow's Pushkin Museum, which rarely leave the Soviet Union. They include "Pastorales Tahitiennes" (1892), a brightly coloured bucolic scene which Gauguin believed was his "best" Tahitian effort. With its flat surface, exotic flowers and sensuous women in native dress, the work sums up Gauguin's essence.

Idaho fights invaders

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — They are fighting invaders in Idaho Falls, and the outcome is still in doubt. "We have never had so many moose in Idaho Falls in the winter time," said fish and game regional wildlife biologist Justin Naderman. Since Jan. 1, 11 moose have wandered into the city, only to be subdued and moved out on the desert north of town. But six more are reportedly still on the loose, though damage has been confined to some nibbled shrubs and knocked-down fencing. "In the winter, when they get a taste of ornamental shrubs, they just don't want to leave," said Naderman, who leads an almost-daily foray into downtown after the invaders.

False alarm culprit found

CASTLEGAR, British Columbia (AP) — Security guards, baffled for eight days by false alarms at Twin Rivers Elementary School, have found the culprit — a teddy bear. Principal Paul Phipps said the mystery was solved when a maintenance worker smacked his hand down on a ladder in frustration. The teddy bear replied with a beep. The bear, a learning tool for special children's needs, responds with a beep to touch, movement or sound, Phipps said. Someone had left the bear on a heat register. Every time the hot-water heater clanked at night, the bear beeped, triggering a silent alarm repeatedly over the winter holidays. "All we had to do was move the toy," Phipps said. "The bear's been behaving himself ever since."

Bored hunter blacks out city

MOSCOW (AP) — A bored hunter killing time with his gun shot out a power-line insulator, blacking out a city of 140,000 people and causing more than \$1.5 million in lost industrial production, it has been reported. It took almost seven hours for the power line to be repaired and for electricity to be restored to the southern city of Maikop, about 1,300 kilometres south of Moscow, and to surrounding villages, according to the Communist Party daily newspaper Pravda. The outage brought Maikop factories to a halt, and caused \$1.6 million in lost production, Pravda said. Losses totalled \$190,000 at a local furniture factory and \$416,000 at a plant making industrial communications equipment, it said. Pravda did not say when the blackout occurred, and indicated the bored marksman had not been caught. "So who is going to answer for this?" Pravda asked.

Slowest chase on record

GREENSBURG, Pennsylvania (AP) — A man was charged with stealing a forklift after leading police on one of the slowest chases on record. "I guess you could say we had a high-speed chase at 11 kilometres per hour," said police Lieutenant Ronald Waugaman. Clinton J. Gandy, 48, allegedly hopped on the 1981 Caterpillar tow motor, turned the keys that had been left in the ignition and drove off. An employee of Overly Manufacturing Company, which owns the vehicle, called police, and a cruiser with flashing lights and a blaring siren caught up with the crawling Caterpillar. "When he saw the car, he just turned around, smiled, waved and kept on going," Waugaman said.

Can a country banish emotion? Sweden can, says professor

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Can an entire nation banish emotion from its political, social, even its sexual life?

According to Ake Daun, ethnography professor at Stockholm University, Swedes have done just that. The result is an efficient, rational but somewhat cold and impersonal society.

In a book due to be published in March called "The Swedish Mentality", Daun draws on a battery of psychological and sociological studies measuring and comparing the emotional responses of different nations.

His conclusion: "Swedes give a low value to emotion and a high value to rationality."

Strong emotions are suppressed or repressed and emotion is kept out of the life of the society.

"There is no Swedish equivalent of the French 'crime of passion'. Strong feelings are not to any great extent seen as extenuating circumstances," Daun told Reuters in an interview.

More controversially, the researcher also suggests that Swedes not only value emotion less than other people, but actually seem to feel things less strongly.

Most Swedes questioned about this disagreed strongly. They may not exhibit temperament as much as other people but deep down their feelings are just as strong, they said.

But if Daun's theory were true, it would explain a great

deal about Sweden — its well-organised but impersonal welfare state, the weak hold of religion on its people, its unflappable tennis stars who never seem to lose their cool, even its uninhibited and unselfish approach to sex.

"Sex," says Daun, "is seen by many Swedes as a mere bodily function. Whereas for many people elsewhere, sexual satisfaction is mixed in with many other levels in a relationship, here it is looked at as something technical."

Daun's researches also suggested that Swedes go to greater lengths than other people to avoid conflict. Their instinct is to back away and look for consensus.

Daun compared the different reactions of representative groups of Swedes and Finns.

Asked if they easily lost their tempers when they did not get what they wanted, 31 per cent of the Finns answered "yes" but only 19 per cent of the Swedes.

Asked if they sometimes became frantic with anger, 52 per cent of Finns said "yes" compared to 38 per cent of Swedes.

Daun said a visit to a Swedish maternity ward was revealing.

"While in labour, Swedish women groan as little as possible and in many cases afterwards ask if they yelled too much. If they find out they didn't, it is seen as positive," he said.

When Prime Minister Olof Palme was assassinated in 1986, 24 per cent of adult Swedes admitted to crying. But 44 per cent of first generation

immigrants to Sweden said that they wept, while 53 per cent of adult Americans cried after the murder of U.S. President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

This attitude, prized the rational above sentiment, also sets the tone for Swedish politics and business life. Swedish firms are avid applicators of new technology and ruthless in scrapping what is old and inefficient.

Trade unions, which are often represented on the boards of companies, often do not oppose job cuts if there are rational arguments to back them.

"If a social reform or an industrial innovation seems to be backed up by rational argument, you can't oppose it in Sweden just by being angry or appealing to the past," Daun

said. "The fact that a person really dislikes free abortion for example is hardly ever considered a legitimate argument. Only objective arguments are considered valid."

Rationality leads many Swedes to believe that it is the duty of the state to care for the sick, the old and the infirm. Old people are hustled off to institutions where they are expertly cared for.

Immigrants quoted by Daun, who were used to children taking care of their aged parents, said the Swedish system was efficient but lacked human compassion.

Why are Swedes so Swedish? Daun's supports the theory of British social scientist Richard Lynn who argued that

national differences in neuroticism depended on the amount of stress to which a particular people had been subjected.

Stress was caused by factors such as military defeat and occupation, political instability, economic disruptions and climate. Judged on all these criteria, Sweden scores low.

Many Swedes regard their ordered society as a model for the rest of the world to emulate. But when Daun asked immigrants in Sweden for their views, the picture was different.

"Immigrants we surveyed thought Swedish society was good but Swedes themselves were not good," he said.

"They were so difficult to reach, so impossible to make friends with, so cold."